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The Literary Digest

A WEEKLY COMPENDIUM OF THE CONTEMPORANEOUS THOUGHT OF THE WORLD

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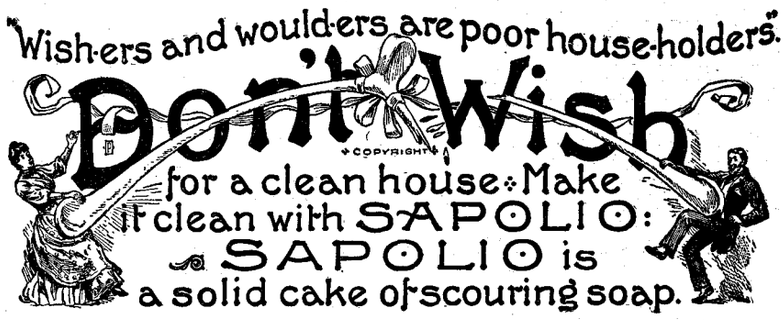
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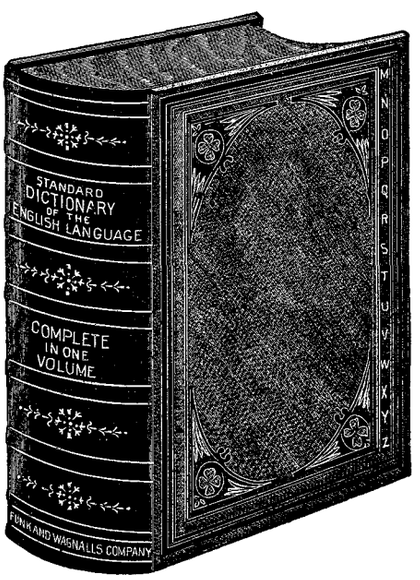

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

NEGRO LABOR IN SOUTHERN COTTON MILLS.

A NEGRO labor problem of far-reaching importance is discovered by many newspapers in the recent change from white to negro labor in a cotton mill at Charleston, S. C. This substitution, according to the Mobile, Ala., *Register*, has "aroused more general comment than any labor incident of past years." *The Register* further says:

"In the first place it is looked upon as a revolution in cotton-mill labor in the South; secondly, it raises the question whether the project will be successful, considering the generally accepted low order of the labor employed; and, lastly, if successful, will it result in the cheapening of the mill product to that extent that goods and yarns from Southern mills will more than ever come in successful competition with the mill products of the North?

"The latter proposition appears to be the one that has the strongest claim on the Southern manufacturers who have already employed or are contemplating the employment of negro labor in their mills. It is the boast of the manufacturers of the United States that they have been enabled to pay higher wages for labor and at the same time compete with goods of foreign manufacture because of the higher intelligence of the labor employed in this country. Based upon this theory, the opponents of the employment of negro labor in the cotton mills of the South say it can not prove remunerative. The claim is that while the negro labor can be employed at less wages than white labor, the productive capacity of white operatives is so far superior to that of the negro that this will more than counterbalance the difference in wages. Whether this theory will hold good, remains to be proven by experience."

The question, according to this commentator, concerns white labor both North and South. For a change means the throwing out of experienced white labor or the acceptance of the wages paid to negroes, and white Southern operatives have never been paid as high wages as the New England operatives. *The Register* continues:

"While the Southern operatives have received less wages, it is claimed that this difference is more than counterbalanced by the cost of living, which is much less in the South than in the North. The New England manufacturers claim that the cost of operating the mills in the South has been the strongest element in competition that they have been forced to meet. With still further reduction in wages of operatives in Southern mills, through the employment of negroes, the apprehension is felt, if the new labor proves satisfactory, that the contest for profitable production of cotton goods in the East will be placed upon a narrower margin. This being the result, the Eastern mills will be forced to devote their mills to the production of the finer classes of cotton goods, in the production of which the highest class of labor is needed and which will bear higher wages. Should the experiment of the employment of negro labor in the mills of the South, as now constituted, prove successful, it may be that it will mean the transference of the white operatives to mills employing only machinery for the production of the finer cotton goods, and in that event the Southern mills will come in sharp competition with the same class of mills in New England as they have in the past in the manufacture of the lower grades of goods."

The Charleston *News and Courier*, replying to certain allegations made regarding the change, publishes the following statements:

"First—The owners of the Charleston Cotton Mill preferred white labor. They could not get one fifth of the white labor they needed in or about Charleston.

"Second—The white labor they brought in from elsewhere was very unsatisfactory, but they kept it for ten years.

"Third—During those years the mill steadily sunk money, and was this year reorganized and recapitalized.

"Fourth—It is wholly untrue that the negro labor was forced into the mill by a majority of Massachusetts stockholders.

"Fifth—Ten years ago the then president of the company, a Southerner and ex-Confederate soldier, urged the directory to allow him to outfit the mill with negro help, and it is now only from necessity that negroes are used.

"Sixth—The negro hands are proving entirely satisfactory, and no change will be made so long as they continue to be satisfactory."

The case of the white operatives (said to number about 800) has been set forth in an address to the public which says, in part:

"If the colored man's status precludes him from competing with the officeholder, it should preclude him from competing with our mothers, wives, sons, and daughters in the light pursuits of the country. If, however, his services are of such intrinsic value to the city's industries that he must be put in dangerous proximity with our maidens or they be deprived of opportunities for his benefit, what consistent reason can be assigned for excluding him from office positions? If we loved our race less, and, like money-glutted foreigners and Southern apostates, inclined to degrade Caucasian blood, we would cheerfully support them for office. We affirm by all our physical powers and brave hearts not to sit supinely by and witness this negro horde turned loose upon the pursuits of our mothers, our wives, our widows, our daughters, our sisters, and rob them of their living."

The Boston *Transcript* repeats in this connection the observation of T. Thomas Fortune (editor New York *Age*) that the solution of the Southern labor problem is a satisfactory understanding between the blacks and whites who must work to live:

"Mr. Fortune quotes from a Washington letter which takes the position assumed by the late Henry W. Grady of Atlanta in 'The New South,' but without offering any solution, that since the poor blacks and the poor whites of the South, constituting 95 per cent. of the population, have to work to support themselves, and refuse to work together, or rather the whites refusing to work

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with the blacks, they create a labor problem within a labor problem; and he continues: 'The labor force of the South for two centuries and a half has been black. In this respect the Afro-American has the right of way.' Mr. Fortune quotes liberally from the utterances of others in support of his contention that the black labor of the South is equal if not superior to the white labor, and that there is a plentiful supply of it, and in illustration of the disadvantage to which the blacks are put by the attitude of the white laborers, he says:

"'Last winter in the city of Atlanta, in the ordinary work of laying cobblestone pavement on Auburn Avenue, a thoroughfare on which more Afro-Americans than any other sort of Americans own property, the contractors were in a hurry to get the work done, and as they did not have enough white help, they were compelled to hire some black help, but the whites refused to work in the same gang with the blacks; so, grotesquely enough, the gangs were divided off, with the space of a hundred yards between them. Each gang had its separate foreman, but the authorities made the same tests of the work and required that it all come up to a certain standard. But this is not all. The black pavement-layers received one half less for their work than the white ones; that is to say, the whites received $2.50 and the blacks $1.25 a day. I had a talk with some of the black men about the matter, and while they were thoroughly alive to the injustice done them, they were powerless to help themselves and were only too glad to get work at any sort of remuneration whatever.'

"So long as this antipathy against the blacks exists among the white laborers of the South, the employers will reap the benefit, and perhaps they are not anxious that the time should come when the white and black laborers shall come together in a demand for higher wages."

Conflicting views upon the probabilities of success in the Charleston experiment are represented by the following utterances of *The News and Courier*, Charleston, and comment thereon by *The Tradesman*, Chattanooga, Tenn.:

"'Colored operatives were employed successfully in several cotton mills in the South before the war, and notably in a cotton mill situated in Lexington county, S. C. It was found by the owners of the mill, as we have been informed, that they proved to be entirely competent for the work required of them. Colored men are employed now all over the South in mechanical pursuits —as carpenters, masons, wheelwrights, molders, engineers, etc. Colored women are employed as cooks, dressmakers, housemaids, etc., and do their work well. The finest French cook at Sherry's or Delmonico's or the Waldorf can not cook rice to compare with that prepared in the Carolina style by an old-fashioned colored cook. Terrapin is prepared nowhere as Paris prepares it, and Baron's patés would please the palate of an Astor. One of the most capable builders and contractors we have ever known was George Grier, of Due West, Abbeville county, a pure-blooded negro, who, in addition to his knowledge of the trade, could read Latin and Greek, and was thoroughly familiar with Scott's and Henry's comprehensive commentaries upon the Bible. Why should a people who are skilled in the use of the needle, who help to build our houses and till our fields, who can learn to play the piano and ride the bicycle—why should such a people not be able to learn to mind the machinery in a cotton mill?'

"This has the true business ring. It is sound sense; tho we fear our friend of *The News and Courier* is dealing with special cases, exceptions, rather than with the negroes as a class. We do not believe that an indiscriminate introduction of the colored people into the cotton mills would be good for the trade. It was undoubtedly a case of 'Hobson's choice' in the Charleston mill. White labor there, for mills of any kind, does not seem to be available in any sufficient number to outfit an establishment. It is negro labor or none; unless the management will 'import' work-people from the North or from the country back of the town; and that is always a hazardous business.

"Whatever comes of the trial of negro labor at Charleston, it looks much as if the mill-men who have been agitating the subject were sure to have the matter objectively illustrated. That much will come of it.

"We confess that we have no very lively hopes that it will prove a great success, or even be found fairly satisfactory. While the broom is new it may sweep fairly well; but soon the ingrained levity and carelessness of the negro about keeping engagements will interfere with his usefulness as a spinner and weaver. The experiment at Lexington, under the slave *régime*, doesn't come in for comparison in the matter of steadiness, for the hands then had to work steadily, were forced to; they can not be forced now. This chronic carelessness has forced nearly all the wood-working and similar factories in the South to hire whites, whereas the managers would in many cases prefer the negroes but for their unreliability. This can not be tolerated in a cotton mill or any kind of textile mill. It can not be put up with in machine shops, carpentry shops, and so on to the end of the chapter, and this trait of the negro character has caused him to be generally relegated to agriculture, railroad-grading, quarrying, and similar heavy drudgery.

"We shall see; but we shall not be convinced of its success until the experiment with the negro as a mill hand is at least five years old."

It may be added that the newspapers have recently reported the inception of two new Southern mills to employ negro labor, one of them the investment of a colored manager.

DISCIPLINE AND MORAL TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OF all the phases of educational work in the public schools discussed by the National Educational Association in Milwaukee last month the subjects of discipline and moral training seem to have induced most general comment. Prof. Albion W. Small, of the Chicago University, raised a storm of talk among some 10,000 delegates by criticizing the tendency to make it impossible and illegal for teachers to use the rod. He took issue with the theory which places public-school pupils wholly on honor and allows them to fix the standard of their own conduct, and characterized the policy as "virtual treason against sovereign moral law." He said:

"This anarchism is inculcated by family or school misgovernment which stops short of compulsion in dealing with children before they have developed the habit of effective morality. The idea that the child's skin is too sacred to smart for social offenses, or that correction and compulsion do him deeper wrong than his unbridled lawlessness inflicts both on himself and society, is an unsocial creed than which I know none more insidiously immoral."

These utterances were supplemented by the following, in a newspaper interview:

"Corporal punishment is only an incident in the management of schools, and I did not refer to it as the principal subject of discussion. I think it is time, tho, to protest against prohibition of it in extreme and exceptional cases.

"I hold that it should be considered the duty of some designated officer of schools to enforce obedience to wholesome regulations by physical force when all other suasion fails.

"Society has decided that certain things shall be done in certain ways, and not left to the judgment of immature children. A system of school government which takes from school officers the power and duty of compelling respect for wholesome school morality in so far undermines the foundations of social order. These foundations are in popular perception that essential morality is an expression of the order of things in which the rights and liberties of all are secure.

"When boy or man feels himself at liberty to violate such principles he is an enemy of his kind. In a free country it is necessary for everybody to understand that if a single individual violates the common order he practically demands freedom for himself and denies it to others. Unless our schools are making pupils feel this before they are thinkers enough to put it into words, they are permitting children to grow up with the spirit of outlaws.

"By all means get the children to feel the spirit of genuine liberty by moral suasion as far as possible, but, in the name of real and lasting liberty, commission and command teachers to enforce outward respect for order whenever pupils do not yield obedience from choice.

"No child is fit for citizenship till he knows that there are many kinds of moral obligations which do not depend at all on his consent. In this connection I would put the child in school under the same principles of civic control which he will be subject to when he is a man. Parent, teacher, police officer, judge, and jailer are in their way the friends and helpers of all good people. They have a mission of severity only toward the exceptional peo-

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ple who show instincts of enmity toward the rest. Charge the teachers with the duty of exercising the petty bodily severities fitted for juvenile correction to save them from danger of the more rigorous correction of constable and turnkey."

Superintendent Lane, of Chicago, upon whose eulogy of the applied principles of self-government in Chicago schools the criticism turned, in a spirited reply declared that Professor Small has set himself in opposition to the spirit and irresistible trend of the age:

"Children can not be taught to think by having some one think for them; they can not be taught to act by having all their actions prescribed by others; they can not be taught to have judgment by never being permitted to exercise their choice; they can never be taught self-government by being forever subjected to the government of others. I do not say that the rein should be thrown entirely on their necks, nor that they should be left without help and guidance. But I believe, with almost the entire profession of teachers in the United States, that in teaching the young force and authority should be reduced to a minimum, and self-control and self-direction encouraged to the maximum compatible with safety and progress. This is no mere untried theory, you know. Any one who takes the trouble to inspect the public schools of Chicago will discover that it is a fact accomplished. He will also discover that the children who are taught in this way receive more moral training, are more orderly, have a greater respect for their teacher, and make greater progress in every way than children did years ago who were presided over by brutal taskmasters with rods in their hands."

W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, considers the trend away from corporal punishment the greatest educational reform within the last forty years:

"I have been through it all. I remember when in St. Louis there were 100 thrashings administered every week among 500 pupils, and when in Boston every schoolteacher provided three rattans in the morning and by the evening they were beaten into shreds on his pupils. In those days children had no self-respect. The only feeling produced by this systematic brutality was one of bravado and defiance. They used to pride themselves on the stoicism with which they could endure torture, and so far from being made better, they often rushed on their teachers with open knives.

"Now, discipline in school has been improving ever since the days of this change. Soon after it took place I visited the schools of Chicago frequently, and used to inspect as many as 100 rooms during a visit, and I must say that the discipline was the best I ever saw. That was some time ago, but George P. Brown, who is the best judge of a school I ever knew, has frequently told me that it has constantly improved.

"I agree perfectly with Superintendent Lane that the influence of the American school is distinctly moral. He was answering those who claim that education can not be moral unless it is religious. I believe with him that morality can be taught without religion, and that in the public schools religion has no place. I also believe that education pure and simple tends to morality, and, tho it is disputed, I contend that the statistics of prisons, properly viewed, abundantly prove this.

"One point more was involved in the discussion, and that related to self-government of the school. Here, too, I must array myself on Superintendent Lane's side. I know all about Colonel Parker's republic down at the Chicago Normal School, and I believe in it, but that does not prove much for the ordinary school. Colonel Parker is a man of such magnetism that he would make any plan work well. But there is enough of this principle exemplified in the schools of Chicago to refute Professor Small. I believe some of them could really run themselves for a while very well in the absence of the teacher, so I end as I began, by saying that Professor Small's address was rash and unguarded, and his views, if he did himself justice, are contrary to experience, and far behind the age in which he lives. Moreover, there is no danger that civilized people will ever return to the old method in school-teaching."

Newspaper comments show radical differences of opinion. Instance *The Times-Herald*, Chicago:

"It can not be said that the professor is alone in his contention. No man of ordinary mental grasp believes in 'compulsory virtue,' but there are many who hold to the theory that compulsion is necessary to enforce moral action until the pupil has developed the habit of effective morality and has a moral consciousness to which he may be safely trusted for his own guidance. If the disappearance of the rod as a schoolroom persuader has a tendency to develop a spirit of lawlessness and disregard for moral obligation that may in time breed anarchy and disorder, by all means let it be restored. If the old-time discipline is necessary to develop a generation of Franklins or Garfields, let the agitation of the cuticle of the refractory juveniles be resumed at the old stand."

The Spy, Worcester, Mass:

"We are quite sure that there are many witnesses ready to rise up and testify to the excellent moral and mental results that have followed a judicious application of the rod both in the schoolroom and in the home; and it may be that these results came not wholly from the dread of a repetition of the pain inflicted. The athletic triumph of the new teacher over the traditional school bully (which is a frequent incident in New England history and not a legend) was even more a moral victory than a physical one, tho it was won in a contest of main strength. The world is doubtless better than it used to be, but a majority of them that inherit the earth are still miserable sinners, and all the argument is not yet with the tender-hearted humanitarians."

The Journal, Chicago:

"Reason is the last thing to be developed in man. It is so difficult to develop that some people, sentimental people especially, prefer to get along without it. It exists in a rudimentary state only in children. They should be taught to employ it as far as that may be possible, but the spectacle of a world bowing and ducking to a child's reason would be the silliest spectacle imaginable. There must be an 'effective' assertion of the authority of parent and teacher. Subordination is one of the rules of human existence, but in this country the insubordination of children is proverbial. Nowhere else are boys and girls so rude and disrespectful to their elders. Intelligent foreigners marvel at their self-assertion, their insolence, their bad manners. But they are the natural result of the lax discipline of home and school. The theories of Superintendent Lane have a great deal to answer for."

The Inter Ocean, Chicago:

"The suggestion [of corporal punishment] is alike preposterous and discreditable. As well advocate imprisonment for debt, hanging for stealing, and the horrors of inquisitional torture in courts of justice. They all belong to the outgrown past. Professor Small might as well attempt to revive the burning of witches. He may gain a little cheap notoriety, but that is all. If he spoke in the interest of any combination to injure Superintendent Lane he will fail.

"It is hardly too much to say that corporal punishment in public schools has been abolished wherever the English language is spoken. There may be private schools in England where the gad is used and the teacher is allowed to vent his anger by taking advantage of the child's inability to defend himself, but in this country nothing of the kind is tolerated, unless it may be in some remote nook where the only light is that of other days.

"Professor Small tries to defend his position by prating of anarchy. The boy or girl who, as he somewhat pompously puts it, 'is permitted to be so inattentive, disorderly, insolent, and disobedient that the business of the school is made more difficult is an incipient anarchist.' Such talk is the cheapest kind of fustian.

"Of course there must be order and obedience, attention and respect, in the school, but if the teacher can not secure these necessary conditions without the gad or other resort to brute force then he or she had better give up the business and try some other calling. This is one of the rules that admits of no exceptions. It is not difficult to get all the teachers needed who can maintain order and all that without corporal punishment of any kind. When the supply is not equal to the demand it will be time enough to consider the advisability of going back to the old custom of lubricating the machinery of elementary education with 'the oil of birch.'"

On the strength of the issue thus raised the Springfield, Mass., *Republican* has opened its columns to an extended and virile discussion of the growth of lawlessness in the country.

The resolutions adopted by the Educational Association touching this subject were confined to general terms:

"We believe in the American public school. From kindergarten to university it stands for sound training, thorough discipline, and good citizenship. While incompetent teaching, inadequate supervision, insufficient material support, or sluggish public opinion may for a time limit its usefulness, they can not wholly destroy its beneficent and uplifting influence.

"We would emphasize in particular at this time the duty of the

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school to the community that it represents. The work of the school is not ended when its responsibilities to the individual pupils who attend it are discharged. It must keep constantly before it the aim, in cooperation with the home and other social forces, of so enriching and directing the public sentiment of the society it serves as to increase respect for law and order and devotion to high ideals and sound principles, as well as to promote efficiency in both public and private life.

"We demand that school administration in all departments, including the appointment, promotion, and removal of teachers, and the selection of text-books, shall be wholly free from political influence and dictation of every sort. We appeal to educated public opinion and to the press of the country to enforce this demand, both in general and in particular instances."

Commissioner Harris developed his conception of "the relation of school discipline to moral education" as follows:

"Moral education is a training in habits, and not an inculcation of mere theoretical views. Mechanical disciplines are indispensable as an elementary basis of moral character. The school holds the pupil to a constant sense of responsibility, and thereby develops in him a keen sense of his transcendental freedom; he comes to realize that he is not only the author of his deed, but also accountable for his neglect to do the reasonable act. Lax discipline in a school saps the moral character of the pupil. It allows him to work merely as he pleases, and he will not reenforce his feeble will by regularity, punctuality, and systematic industry. He grows up in habits of whispering and other species of intermeddling with his fellow pupils, neither doing what is reasonable himself nor allowing others to do it. Never having subdued himself, he will never subdue the world of chaos or any part of it as his lifework, but will have to be subdued by external constraint on the part of his fellow men. Too strict discipline, on the other hand, undermines moral character by emphasizing too much the mechanical duties, and especially the phase of obedience to authority, and it leaves the pupil in a state of perennial minority. He does not assimilate the law of duty and make it his own."

Dr. Lyman Abbott, of Brooklyn, in an address which has been noticed as the most striking feature of the convention, asserted the necessity and the right of a self-governing state to educate in all that is good, and outlined this standard of moral training:

"It is true the Hebrew commonwealth had no standing army, was the first to adopt federal government, and the first to provide for education, yet we must not teach anything flavored with Hebrew learning in the public schools for fear we get religion. We can study all the religions, but not the Hebrew religion. We can talk about gods and goddesses, but not about Jehovah.

"What is the Hebrew religion? It is embodied in this: 'He that hath clean hands and a clean heart.'

"From what I learn in the evening papers I think that if the

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aldermen of Chicago had been educated in that religion in the public schools they would not be as they are. If the managers of the General Electric Company of Chicago had learned that religion in the public schools they would not be as they are.

"Justice, mercy—that is the religion of the Hebrew.

"When I read of two hundred lynchings in this country last year, when I see tramps increasing on one hand and multi-millionaires growing in numbers on the other hand, where I find criminals are multiplying, I feel we ought to have some of the religion of the Hebrew.

"Is it that we Americans are so self-depreciatory that we need be afraid of teaching our children what humility means? Do not misunderstand me. I do not plead here for public worship in the public schools. I vote against it. It is not the function of the state to carry on religious worship in the schools. I do not plead for a perfunctory reading of the Bible. We are fighting too much perfunctory reading in the schools already.

"I am not pleading for theological tenets. These are not essential to good citizenship in this life. No Roman Catholic will aver that a Protestant will not make a good citizen. No intelligent Protestant will say this of a Roman Catholic, and both believe the Jews make good citizens. I am not pleading for the Bible. I am pleading for training in righteous ways.

"I maintain that if the state has the right to provide self-education it has the right to provide all the elements for self-government. Children ought to get a practical training in justice, mercy, truth, faith, hope, love, and goodness.

"You teachers can not teach thoroughly without teaching religion. To make the children see the light in the literature which burned in the great authors—is not this teaching religion? If every religion is shut off from the schools then training will cease to be scientific and will become empirical, and instead of having men strong and women pure we will have nothing but cultured parrots.

"To sum all up—I stand for this: 1. That the attempt on the part of this great people to educate themselves is the basis of self-government. 2. That in order to do this well the public schools must be given the power to enforce the law and to compel the recalcitrant to yield to authority. 3. That the state should have the right to use everything tending to elevate character.

"If there are laws on the statute-book against this, the people can change them. This can be put in the Constitution: 'That we, the people of the United States, have the right to carry on all that is necessary for self-government.'"

COMMERCIAL CONSPIRACY OR RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

OPPOSITE views of the trust problem are ably reviewed in recent editorials in *The Journal of Commerce* and *The Evening Post*, New York. The former comments on the charge of Judge Fitzgerald to a New York jury (which disagreed) in the case of the American Tobacco Company indicted for conspiracy. The judge elaborated court decisions which hold that "the gravamen of the offense of conspiracy is the combination," citing among others the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States (Justice Peckham) against the Trans-Missouri Freight Association, declining to entertain the reasonableness or unreasonableness of an agreement as material. *The Journal of Commerce* says:

"The common law, as expounded by the highest courts of the various States of this Union, is part of our inheritance of popular freedom. It was long ago said to consist of 'those rules and maxims concerning persons and property which have obtained by the tacit consent and usage of the inhabitants of the country.' It antedates all constitutions, for constitutions, like statutes, are merely so many methods of giving fixed form and expression to some of its principles. The idea that a statute declaratory of the common law might somehow do violence to the Constitution, is therefore very much like the assumption that the Constitution may invade in one paragraph a right which it defines in another. It must have been in ignorance of these simple considerations that one of our contemporaries asked the other day: 'Is the attempt to secure such a monopoly (as that aimed at by the American Tobacco Company) a crime under the laws of the State of New York; if so, is the law which makes it a crime authorized by the Constitution?' and that another said: 'We are undoubtedly witnessing an organized effort . . . under pretense of breaking up monopolies and trusts to make the ordinary operations of commerce criminal.'

"No better measure can be had of the depth of ignorance prevalent on this subject than such statements as these in the columns of two of the most reputable and intelligent newspapers of this city. . . . The charge has the special value of disposing of some of the most obstinate fallacies that obscure a proper understanding of this subject. For example, counsel for the defense in this action tried to explain away the possibility of commercial conspiracy after the following jaunty fashion: 'There's a vague and popular opinion—the district-attorney has it—that what is lawful for one person to do is unlawful for two to more to do. If it is lawful for you, Mr. Foreman, to consign proprietary medicines to a jobber and fix the price at which he may sell them, it is lawful for a dozen men to combine with you to do the same thing.' To this the following very sufficient answer is furnished by Judge Fitzgerald: 'A conspiracy is a combination of two or more persons, by some concerted action, to accomplish some criminal or unlawful purpose; or to accomplish some purpose not in itself criminal or unlawful, by criminal or unlawful means. You will notice that the law condemns not only conspiracies to accomplish an unlawful object, but it equally condemns conspiracies to accomplish lawful objects by unlawful means. The law recognizes the mighty power of combination; its power for good, and also its power for evil, and acts that are innocent when committed individually, in some instances become criminal when committed by a number of persons in pursuance of a common unlawful design.'

"Without the excuse of paid advocacy, which may cover the glosses of the law by learned counsel, one of our contemporaries, already quoted from, asks: 'Can the right of free contract between a number of men, whether capitalists and manufacturers or workingmen, on the one hand, with their customers on the other hand, safely be regulated by law in such manner as to make its exercise a crime, when it is exercised to secure a monopoly in the supply and sale of goods, or in the supply and sale of labor?' To this, let the reply of Judge Fitzgerald suffice: 'Men have no right to engage in combinations having for their object the prevention of competition in supplying to the public commodities of commerce. They have no right to combine to create a monopoly in such commodities. If they do, it does not avail them that the price of the commodity has not been increased, or that it has even been diminished to the public. The danger which the law seeks to guard against is not the actual but the possible injury under such conditions.' The right of free contract holds good like any other attribute of individual liberty, just so far as it is not used to injure the rights of others. The law absolutely prohibits the exercise of the privilege of contract when the end to be gained is against public policy. It has consistently and uniformly done so in this country, whether the offenders were capitalists or workingmen. The decisions of our own state courts against the North River Sugar-Refining Company are not more emphatic on this point than are those of the federal courts against the Workingmen's Amalgamated Council of New Orleans. That the courts have not faltered, and can not, without error, falter in their application of the rules of the common law to acts of conspiracy in restraint of trade, Judge Fitzgerald makes abundantly plain."

The Evening Post, however, takes issue with "the whole scheme of criminal legislation against trusts and monopolies," as follows:

"It is idle to make offenses out of acts which are necessary, and hence the first question underlying the whole debate about trusts, pools, monopolies, and contracts in restraint of trade, is not merely whether they produce inconvenience, now and then enrich men whom we would prefer to see poor, or impoverish men whom we would like to see rich—these consequences have attended the progress of civilization since the dawn of history—but whether pools, trusts, monopolies, and contracts in restraint of trade are not really a necessary part of our civilization, which can not be superseded without the disappearance of civilization itself.

"Strangely enough, altho this matter is vitally involved in our

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system of constitutional law, it has not yet been thoroughly discussed in this country. Next autumn it will come before the courts in a variety of forms, notably in the argument of the joint traffic case before the Supreme Court at Washington. It has, however, been canvassed in England in a great judicial argument, to the full importance of which Mr. W. L. Royall of the Richmond and New York bar invites attention in a pamphlet called 'The Pool and the Trust; Their Side of the Case.' The English case was not a criminal proceeding, altho it would have been in this country, but it involved a discussion of the 'policy' underlying all interference by the courts with contracts.

"The facts were much blacker from the anti-monopolists' point of view than any involved in the trans-Missouri case or in the recent cigarette trial in this city. We give them in Mr. Royall's own words:

"'Several lines of steamships traded to China all the year. The trade was unprofitable, except in the so-called "tea season," when it was very profitable. The losses of the year were made up and a profit gained by the freights on tea in "tea season." Another line of steamers traded to Australia all the year until "tea season" came on, when its steamers were diverted to Hankow to get a part of the profitable tea trade. The lines which traded to China all the year entered thereupon into an agreement, called there a conference, which was in all essentials one of our "trusts," or "pools," or "monopolies," or "boycotts," or "contracts in restraint of trade," or whatever else of the same sort can be suggested. They agreed together to divide out freights among themselves and they published a notice to all merchants in China that if they would ship everything all the year by one of the conference lines, they would be allowed a rebate upon all freights at the end of the year of 5 per cent., and whenever one of the steamers of the Australian line came to Hankow the conference had a steamer there to underbid it on freights; so that whatever the Australian got caused it a loss. Thereupon the Australian line applied to the English courts for protection, upon the ground that this combination of many against one was contrary to the principles of our laws.'

"Now all the English judges but one, from the trial court up to the House of Lords, sustained the agreement, and they sustained it on the ground that they could not help themselves. 'It is not illegal,' Lord Morris said, 'for a trader to aim at driving a competitor out of trade, provided the motive be his own gain by appropriation of the trade.' And it is clear from the case, as Mr. Royall very justly says, that 'the alternative idea, which turns courts loose to judge of the validity or invalidity of each particular agreement accordingly as the judge may think it is in harmony or out of harmony with his ideas of public policy, leaves the question of the citizen's rights to the discretion, and the arbitrary discretion, of a judge.'

"This is really the alternative, and if we extend the principle to this country, and imagine the present crusade successful, we should find that our substitute for our present commercial system was the despotism either of court or legislature.

"The trans-Missouri case and Judge Peckham's opinion in it were a perfect illustration. All contracts, he declares, 'in restraint of trade' are illegal, because the legislature has said so. It may be reasonable or unreasonable, enforceable or unenforceable, but the rule is final. The English case just referred to was, we believe, quoted in the argument, but it made no more impression on him and the majority judges than if it had been blank paper, evidently because the idea is firmly lodged in their minds that arbitrary edicts or decisions are to be substituted in these matters for the free rules of the common law which have made our civilization what it is to-day. Of course, this is only the first step. The last would be the reintroduction of the old despotic control of trade by Government under which free competition would disappear and the right to buy and sell and manufacture and exchange would become again privileges granted and sold by the Government. Is it possible that we have forgotten already that it was by government that 'monopolies' were introduced, and by freedom not only in competition, but in combination, that they were destroyed?"

School History for North and South.—The discussion of alleged sectionalism in school histories continues in the press and public assemblages. The Chicago *Times-Herald* restates the situation, and discovers in a report made to the recent Confederate Veterans' reunion the opportunity for the Grand Army of the Republic to do as well or better:

"The Southern papers and Confederate Veteran associations are evincing a most commendable disposition to cooperate with veterans of the North in the compilation of a school history that shall give to each his meed of praise for his part in what each side regarded as a struggle for popular rights and for native land. To do this it is not necessary at this time to stigmatize the men who fought under Lee as rebels and as conspirators against good government. What is needed is a school history that will state the issues of the conflict plainly and without sectional prejudice, that shall exalt the flag and glorify the Union without personal detraction or covert insinuation.

"The agitation for this sort of a history is invested with fresh and timely interest by the report of the history committee of which Gen. Stephen D. Lee, of Columbus, Miss., is chairman. This report was made at the recent reunion of the United Confederate Veterans at Nashville, Tenn. General Lee believes that the time has come at last when the history of our great war can be taught throughout the country without holding either army up to shame, but with justice and charity to all, imputing to both sides worthy motives and dwelling with equal praise upon noble, self-sacrificing conduct, inspired by love of country, whether exhibited for the nation or for the State. General Lee declares that the South wants no history in her schools that can not be taught to the children in every State in the Union. There should not be one history for Massachusetts and another for South Carolina.

"General Lee also indignantly repudiates the notion that the war was fought for the abolition of slavery. Such a theory he characterizes as a 'slander upon the soldiers of both armies, as well as upon the great men who shaped the course of events at Washington and at Richmond.' The great issue of the conflict was whether this was a nation or a league of sovereign states. 'We utterly deny that the American people, alone among civilized nations, were incompetent to abolish slavery without war,' says General Lee.

"The report is most admirable in tone, intensely patriotic in sentiment, and is a happy augury of the good time coming when men may write and speak of the great civil conflict without bitterness or prejudice—as fellow citizens of a great and united republic."

LABOR PAPERS ON THE DEBS MOVEMENT.

THE Debs plan of colonizing the unemployed as a step toward the establishment of a cooperative commonwealth [see THE LITERARY DIGEST, July 3] meets some favor but a notable amount of criticism in the weekly press which speaks for organized labor and radical reform elements generally.

Time Ripe for Revolutionary Movement.—"The declaration of principles of the Social Democracy goes to the root of economic injustice as only socialistic students are capable of doing, and the platform, by demanding a 'reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production,' and 'the public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts, and combines,' as well as other progressive planks, is one that will satisfy advanced workingmen.

"The machinery of the order is constructed in this manner: Local branches limited to 500 members each; state unions composed of one representative from each local branch; a national council composed of one representative from each State and Territory; an executive board composed of five members. On August 1 the executive board will choose three competent persons to select a State where unemployed and other members will gradually concentrate and acquire political and industrial control.

"No organization since the sudden rise of the K. of L., a dozen years ago, has created such wide discussion as the Social Democracy. If all agitation on the part of its founders and organizers stopped to-day it would nevertheless have accomplished great good for the cause of socialism.

"The time is ripe for another great popular revolutionary movement—one that will spread to every corner of the country and prepare the working-class for a new system. We said before, and we repeat it now, that there are many hundreds of workingmen in this country who would follow Eugene V. Debs to the jaws of hell. He is a genius, combining the unusual qualities of being a superb organizer, an eloquent orator, and a

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brilliant writer. He has attracted about himself more strong, devoted, and sincere men than any individual since Lincoln—men who admire and love their chosen leader, who would sacrifice all they possess for him, and who have but awaited the word to go among the masses and proselyte for the cause that he has undertaken.

"Tho there may be differences of opinion as to tactics, every Socialist ought to wish Debs and the Social Democracy Godspeed. Capitalism's pitiless grip will be the sooner overthrown that the masses are educated to the real conditions that prevail in this country. Let the awakening continue!"—*The Citizen* (*Socialist-Labor*), *Cleveland, Ohio.*

No Short Route for Labor.—"In the history of our industrial development there have been many periods of panic and crisis. Each one of them has brought with it a scheme similar, or very nearly similar, to the one just launched. Universal and voluntary cooperation is perhaps the ideal life to which all reformers and sympathizers bend their effort. Colonization with that object in view has been undertaken time and again, and invariably with the same result—defeat, hopes deferred, aspirations destroyed, and courage frozen.

"Sympathetic men are continually devoting their attention to find a way out of the awful economic and social conditions which modern industry brings in its wake, and there are too often men swayed simply by their sympathies and desires of finding a 'short route' out of the industrial miasmatic atmosphere into the haven and elysium of social happiness. In this vain attempt actual conditions and facts are lost sight of. They hope to create a new state of society within the present and fail to perceive that the old must of necessity be at war with the new; and the old being so vastly extensive and so deeply entrenched that the smaller must of necessity be forced to the wall.

"Modern industry and commerce admits of no side-show or small competitor. The struggle for the attainment of labor's rights, for justice to the toilers, must be waged *within* modern society and upon the field of modern industry and commerce.

"That struggle is the struggle of the trade-unions and tho apparently slow, is yet the fastest, truest, and most successfully conducted by the trade-unions. It takes up the gage of battle, wages the contest unceasingly; it is not diverted either to the right or the left, but consistently, persistently, and aggressively carries on the contest for the complete emancipation of labor from every thraldom of injustice; and along the road secures less hours of toil for the employed workers, and finding work for the unemployed; thus enlarging the economic, social, moral, and political opportunities not only for themselves but for all mankind."—*The American Federationist* (*American Federation of Labor*), *Washington, D. C.*

The Grandest of Motives.—"As a general rule people have very little faith in cooperation schemes, but Debs's plan, as we understand it, is somewhat broader than the strictly community plan. His idea seems to be to make his colony distinctly reciprocal, that is, an interchange or swapping of the results of each man's labor. This is done through a system of due bills or credit-vouchers, the same that is being discussed and advocated by the Labor Exchange of this city. It is plain to every thinking man that any system or principle that will set the men to work, a system that will enable them to utilize their muscle, will settle the whole question. And it is as plain as the shining sun that the destruction of labor is the great science of the day, under the theory that economy is in the destroying of the very element that creates wealth. A gentleman from Chicago relates to us that a steamer has of late been launched in Buffalo that can carry eight hundred carloads of grain. The steamer is loaded at one end and unloaded at the other by machinery, and all the crew it needs is a captain, engineer, firemen, and pilots. It is claimed that a fleet of these steamers will practically destroy the great shipping traffic of the lakes, which now employs thousands of men. It would be just as sensible for the Government to limit the tonnage of a vessel as it is to define the size of the fish the fisherman is allowed to catch. The purpose of this big steamer is to destroy the small lake craft.

"And Debs's plan is to counteract these agencies that are strangling labor, through a system that will allow labor to exist, raise families, and enjoy the blessings of a home. No grander motive was ever conceived since Christ was crucified."—*The Workman* (*Labor*), *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

"Debs on the Wrong Tack."—"Eugene V. Debs has or had a splendid talent for organizing men. When he founded the American Railway Union on that great principle that 'An injury to one is the concern of all,' which has had its grandest exemplification in the works of the Knights of Labor, he did a magnificent work, which would have won its battle had wise and far-sighted generalship always guided its course. But when Debs goes off on any half-baked scheme of European state socialism, and begins by making a piteous appeal to that colossal robber, John D. Rockefeller, for a dole of charity from his stealings to help start the scheme, then I say it is manifest that Debs is losing his grip on himself and on the true policy of the cause for which he has done so much in the past, when his head was clearer and his judgment sounder than it is to-day. . . .

"Private property in the modern world is purely the creation of law, and law is but the expressed will of the majority. Everywhere the overwhelming majority are workingmen — wealth-producers. It is solely by their will and consent that, sometimes by law and sometimes in spite of law, such men as Rockefeller and his class are able to continue in their career of wholesale highway robbery.

"Whenever the majority decide that the criminals must stop and disgorge the stolen property they will have to stop. It is no answer to this to say that the plutocracy can bribe the courts to permit them to continue their crimes; for this is a country where the people are quite well accustomed to supplement or cure any defects in the regular judicial proceedings by a summary action of Judge Lynch's court.

"But this last will not be at all necessary, for the people have been debating in their minds quietly for a long while as to what legal steps to take to bring our plutocratic pirates to justice, and when they decide they will do it with so emphatic an announcement of their sovereign will in the matter that no court would dream of refusing or neglecting to execute their mandate."—*The Journal of the Knights of Labor, Washington.*

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

IN order to get a fair idea of the versatility of this country one has but to read the weather reports.—*The Journal, New York.*

ABSURD ALL ROUND.—"Isn't it absurd what ideas people in small towns have of large cities?"

"Yes; there's just one thing more absurd."

"What is that?"

"The ideas people in large cities have of small towns."—*The Post, Chicago.*

AT THE CYCLE CLUB.—First Member: "How would it do to agitate for a law allowing bicyclists to use the sidewalks, and compelling pedestrians to walk in the middle of the street?"

Second Member: "Well, that idea seems a little premature, just now. After a time we might demand such a law on the principle of the greatest good of the greatest number."—*Puck, New York.*

WHY DON'T HE BITE?
—*The Herald, New York.*

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LETTERS AND ART.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT IN RUSSIA.

IT is strange to have to speak of the Russian as a pioneer in an important practical reform, but the facts entitle her to that distinction. Some years ago, it will be recalled, a vigorous agitation was carried on in the leading English magazines in favor of abolishing all sorts of formal examinations in the lower and middle schools. Educators, publicists, authors, theologians, and statesmen freely debated the proposition, but nothing was accomplished. The futility and mischievous results of "cramming" and examinations were eloquently pictured, however, and the verdict was against examinations.

In Russia, where the decision depends on the ministry, the first step has just been taken toward abolishing examinations. The reform is to be applied to all low and intermediate schools. We find the following account and discussion of the reform in the St. Petersburg *Novosti:*

"Under an order issued to the pedagogical councils, pupils will hereafter enjoy the right of promotion to higher grades and classes without examinations. Authority is conferred on the directors of each educational institution to relieve their pupils from such examinations, provided their marks upon the various studies during the year are satisfactory and indicative of application and intelligence. As for those pupils whose marks are unsatisfactory, those who have demonstrated utter incapacity are not to be permitted to pass or to take any examinations at all, while those who are deficient only in certain branches are to be examined in those particular branches only.

"This reform is instituted as an experiment, and is limited to a term of three years. At the end of that term, the ministry will decide finally whether examinations are to be discontinued or revived in any form. The question of doing away with examinations was first raised in 1891 by the Moscow agricultural school. The council in charge of the institution was of the opinion that the measure proposed would elevate the educational standard while facilitating the work of the pupils. It held that the significance of the record made during the year would be considerably enhanced by the knowledge that it, rather than the result of the special efforts preceding examinations, would determine the rank and chances of the pupil. The ministry thereupon invited expression of opinion on the part of pedagogical councils of the various institutions, and the replies constitute a profoundly important contribution to the subject of examinations and their value from the standpoint of educators and pupils."

Naturally enough, much diversity of opinion was disclosed by the replies submitted to the ministry. Examinations had many resolute advocates. According to the summary given in *Novosti*, the expressed views may be divided into three distinct sects, as follows:

"First, the view unqualifiedly in favor of retaining the examination plan. According to the advocates of this view, nothing can serve as a satisfactory substitute for examinations. Neither frequent reviews nor daily quizzes can measure the acquirements of students. Examinations alone emphasize and establish the interdependence of the different studies and afford a basis for judging of the efficiency of the methods adopted by the several instructors. They are a species of control over the work of the entire year, and in this light instructor as well as scholar may be estimated. As for the injurious mental and nervous effects of the system, it is asserted that the trouble is not with the examinations, but with the tendency to unduly enlarge the scope of the studies and overburden the pupils. So much work is required that no time is left for careful digesting of the things taught, and at the end of the year it is found necessary to put forth heroic efforts in order to get the most superficial knowledge of the field traversed. The remedy lies, according to this group, in simplifying and curtailing the curriculum, and in giving students more time for repetitions and reviews.

"The second group of educators advocated the abolition of examinations for the exceptionally successful pupils. They would make the exemption a privilege, accorded to those whose marks for the term do not fall below eighty in any branch of study. This, they say, is not only reasonable in itself, since such scholars are certain of passing and do not require to be tested; but it would stimulate the ambition of all scholars and furnish an incentive for application and faithfulness. The prospect of exemption from examinations would be sufficient to raise the average of the entire class and increase the number of the advanced minority.

"Finally, the third group expressed itself against the examination plan as a whole. They found intellectual and moral objections to the method. In the first place, high marks at examinations are no test of knowledge, according to them. Students prepare themselves by the cramming process for the fateful examinations, but what is quickly acquired under pressure is easily and quickly forgotten. The health, physical and mental, of many of the most conscientious pupils suffers very seriously, and in many cases pure accident determines the result. The essential unfairness of the method is so generally felt that all sorts of shifts and tricks are resorted to to deceive the examiners and circumvent their precautions. Cheating and fraud and dishonesty are thus fostered, and even the teachers connive at these practises, seeing as they do before them exhausted, pale, overworked, and unfortunate youths to whom failure means great calamity."

In view of this divergence of opinion, the ministry has decided to make the abolition of examinations optional with the directory of each school, with the understanding that at the end of three years there will be a general comparison of results and a final solution of the problem. The press is almost a unit, it seems, in favor of the abolition of examinations, and hopes that many schools will avail themselves of the privilege to institute the experiment.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

The Vitality of Creative Power.—What is the duration of the creative period in human life? To this question, John Clark Ridpath makes the following answer in *The Arena* (July):

"Sometimes the creative power appears in early youth; but when that happens there is generally an early surcease. Sometimes the power comes late and remains long. Sometimes it flashes forth in the early morning and remains in the after twilight. Estimated by years this productive power (which goes by the name of genius) sometimes reaches only to a few score moons. Sometimes it reaches to a score of years. Sometimes, tho rarely, it extends to three-score years or more.

"Thomas Chatterton went to a suicide's grave in Potter's Field when he was only seventeen years, nine months, and four days of age. I know of no other case of so great precocity; it is beyond belief. His mind had been productive for about three years. Byron's productive period covered sixteen years—no more. Pope began at twelve and ended at fifty-six.

"In our own age, Tennyson has done well. Making an early effort to begin, he, like Dryden, did not really reach the creative epoch until he was fully thirty. His creative period covers about fifty-nine years. It extends from 'A Dream of Fair Women,' in 1833, to 'Crossing the Bar,' in 1892.

"The best example, however, in the history of the human mind, is that of William Cullen Bryant; that is, Bryant has real creations that lie further apart in time than can be paralleled, so far as I know, in the case of any other of the sons of men. The date of 'Thanatopsis' is not precisely known. It belongs, however, to the years 1812-13. Bryant was then eighteen—in his nineteenth year. Add to 1812 sixty-four years and we have 1876, the date of the publication of the 'Flood of Years.' The two poems in question lie apart in production by the space of fully threescore and four years. It is a marvel! And why not?

> "To him who in the love of nature holds
> Communion with her visible forms,

why should not life, productive life, enthusiastic fruitful life, be extended until its last acts of creation, shot through with the sunshine of experience and wisdom, shall flash in great bars of haze and glory over the landscape of the twilight days?"

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INORDINATE READING OF NOVELS.

THREE things are "easily demonstrable" in connection with the inordinate novel-reading of the age, so *The Homiletic Review* editorially remarks. The first is that the intellect is being weakened, the insatiable novel-reader losing the power to grapple with the great truths that underlie the realities of life. The second is that true feeling is deadened, the principle enunciated by Bishop Butler and recalled by Henry Rogers being applicable here, namely, that *passive impressions* by being repeated grow weaker, and the heart is made worse, not better, by the luxury of sympathy and mere benevolent feeling separated from action. The third thing demonstrable is that inordinate reading of even the best novels must destroy all taste for the other and more solid reading that is essential for every intelligent man or woman, and so, in the end, all taste for real right life.

Continuing, *The Review* (July) finds a close connection between this inordinate love of novels on the one hand, and, on the other, sensational journalism, political corruption, and moral and religious laxity. We quote as follows:

"1. The exclusive attention to fiction seems to have deadened, if not almost destroyed, the public sense of fact, of reality, of truth. This appears in all departments of thought and life. The demand for sensational reports in place of actual news has almost revolutionized journalism. The historical novel is everywhere being pushed into the place of genuine history. The wildest and most baseless speculation is palmed off and accepted as real science. The press groans under the publication of critical and theological vagaries that are expected to be accepted in place of scientific theology and the Word of God. The sense of the reality in the principles that underlie conscience and society and government has been in many cases lost out. Indeed, it sometimes seems as tho the age had got round again to the skeptical question of Pilate, 'What is truth?' All this is but the natural result of the pushing of all truth out of the range of intellectual vision by means of all sorts of fictitious productions.

"2. A further effect is to be seen in the immense change that has taken place in the conduct of mankind in the various departments of life. Corruption in politics and laxity in religion are instances in point. If there is no basis of reality, why should men live as tho there were? Multitudes have answered this question to suit their natural desires and are living accordingly. The change has been almost revolutionary. The world has almost lost all sense of truth and right, and of ideal character and conduct, and all sense of responsibility as well.

"Where is to be found the *remedy?* We would suggest that it must be found in *getting back again to the solid basis of truth.* . . . There must somehow be brought about the restoration of the sense of truth and reality in this age, if society is not to be permanently wrecked."

MRS. OLIPHANT, WOMAN AND AUTHOR.

ONE of the most prolific authors in the history of English literature has just passed away. Mrs. Oliphant's literary career extends over very nearly half a century, and, when she died, more than one hundred volumes had come from her pen, seventy of them being novels. Her first novel, "Passages in the Life of Mrs. Margaret Maitland, of Sunnyside," appeared when she was about twenty years of age. Since then the name of Margaret Oliphant has been a familiar one to thousands, perhaps millions, of novel-readers. Her work was continuous and well sustained. The English literary journals which contain a notice of her death give, in the same issue, reviews of her latest volume (in conjunction with Mrs. Lynn Linton): "Women Novelists of Queen Victoria's Reign." This was her latest published work, but *The Academy* (London) says that shortly before her death she completed a personal life of the Queen which will be issued at once. Besides her novels, Mrs. Oliphant wrote a number of biographies and historical studies, and even a few poems. Among her best efforts in verse is her Jubilee ode in *Blackwood's* for June, which reached the readers of that magazine at about the same time as the news of her death.

A sympathetic account of her life is contributed to *The Academy*, by "One Who Knew Her." We quote portions of this account:

"Margaret Wilson was born at Wallingford, near Musselburgh, in 1828, and in 1849 her first book, 'Margaret Maitland,' was published. In 1852 she married her cousin, and from that time until three weeks ago she never ceased from writing. In health and

MARGARET OLIPHANT.

in sickness, in joy and in sorrow, in weal and in wo that indefatigable brain and pen worked on. Her husband, Francis Oliphant, was an artist, and some of his designs for glass windows gave promise of much success. . . .

"Children were born, and the mother's hands and head were kept busily employed, while her heart ached sadly as three of the five babies died, leaving her at her husband's death with one boy and one girl, to whom, six weeks later, a little delicate boy was added. . . . Never was there a woman who gave so generously or who worked so hard for what she gave; never was she too busy to receive guests—to converse delightfully on the most trivial subjects; to sympathize and help in every trouble that was brought to her. . . .

"Of the novels which she poured out ceaselessly from that time until a few months ago, some are already forgotten, others will live as long as there is any interest in the Victorian age. It was not possible for a writer so prolific to be always at her best. If she had written less she would have written masterpieces. Occupied as she was with her children and her home, she could not afford to write masterpieces always; but the loss of the artist is to the honor of the woman. Mrs. Oliphant seldom went very deep for the subjects of her fiction; she purposely avoided the more violent passions of humanity, and shrank from working out situations to the bitter end. Yet her vision of life was singularly clear, her observation wonderfully keen and true; her characters are seldom extraordinary men or women, but they are always men and women. Unlike many of her female contemporaries in fiction, she always wrote the purest English. Novels with a purpose were unattractive, and problems of sex hateful to her. Realistic novels she disliked, because the simplicity and purity of her own nature prevented her from believing in conscious vice and wickedness. 'My dear,' she would say, 'there must be some

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mistake, people are not so bad as that; there must have been some misunderstanding.'"

To catalog her works would be tedious here, but let there be mentioned among her novels those early exquisite books, "Katie Stewart," "The Quiet Heart," "The Laird of Norlaw"; the several "Chronicles of Carlingford," from "Salem Chapel" (1862) to "Phoebe, Junior" (1876); "John: A Love Story" (1870); "Young Musgrave" (1877); "The Son of His Father" (1887). "The Second Son" was written for *The Atlantic Monthly* in collaboration with T. B. Aldrich, then editor of that magazine.

Mrs. Oliphant's stories belong in the same category with those of Jane Austen, Charlotte Yonge, and Anthony Trollope. "And yet, in some respects," says the Providence *Journal*, editorially commenting on this point, "she was a more finished artist than any of them":

"What we have to admire in Mrs. Oliphant's work is its ease and freedom, the accuracy of her portrayal of social conditions, the insight of her delineation of character. Her observation is equaled by her sympathy, her humor is complemented by her pathos."

While she has not given us any characters that will live in fiction, her work shows a vigorous individuality. The Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* thus characterizes her work in general:

"Mrs. Oliphant was not a creator of striking characters, and perhaps no more individual memory is left by any of her personages than is left by the disembodied spirit of 'Old Lady Mary,' in one of her latest books. 'The Chronicles of Carlingford,' however, came near to adding some personages to the list in which English fiction is so rich, and perhaps Katie Stewart, one of her earliest heroines, is remembered apart from others."

Her delicate humor and slight tinge of mysticism *The Critic* calls the finishing touches of a talent that fell but little short of genius.

Queen Victoria is said to have liked Mrs. Oliphant's novels better than any others, and this fact would seem to justify the opinion of an anonymous critic in *Harper's Weekly*, who says:

"Her stories are nice stories of English life, which contain nothing unsuited to a young person, and which have given a great deal of innocent pleasure to a great number of readers. Even if they are not great, they are certainly good, both ethically and as literature."

ANECDOTES ABOUT RUBINSTEIN.

WHEN the late Anton Rubinstein started out in the world to seek his fortune, as the fairy stories phrase it, he was but seventeen years of age. His father had died and his mother was forced to return to Russia with her other son. Anton went to Vienna and called upon Liszt. "A talented man," said Liszt, "ought to be able to make his own way without any one's help." That was all he got from Liszt. He had ten or twelve letters of introduction from the Russian ambassador at Berlin, but as the presentation of several of them seemed to have no result, he opened one of those remaining, and this was what he read:

"DEAR COUNTESS, etc.:

"Among the various duties incumbent upon an ambassador is the exceedingly wearisome one of being obliged to give patronage and letters of recommendation to various of his compatriots whose demands are sometimes very difficult to satisfy. I beg leave to recommend to you a certain Rubinstein."

Young Rubinstein promptly threw the letters into the fire, and prepared to grapple single-handed with destiny. These facts are set forth in his autobiography, and are reprinted by the London *Musician*, the translation from the Russian being by Wilfred Bendall. Rubinstein's story continues as follows:

"In Vienna I gave lessons—the greater number for almost nothing. I lived in a garret, and it not infrequently happened that day after day I had no money to pay for a dinner, and therefore had to go without. There was scarcely any furniture in my room, so that my compositions had to lie heaped up on the floor. What did I not write in those days? Pieces of all sorts: oratorios, symphonies, operas, and songs; not only music, but various attempts at literature—critiques, and even philosophical articles. I actually started in my garret a sort of newspaper for one reader only—myself!

"This sort of life lasted for a year and a half. I suffered from poverty and hunger—sometimes to a terrible degree. In a word, my experience was the same as that of almost all those who try to make their way unaided."

Rubinstein tells the following story of custom-house management in Russia, upon his return a number of years later:

"I went to fetch my trunk, which was full of my musical MSS.—the result of three years' labor in Berlin and Vienna.

"I can't remember now why I applied to a certain Frevel, or who the man was—whether an officer of the custom-house, or of the censor, or of the police—but whoever he was he refused to give up my box.

"'You see,' he said, 'all this MS. is apparently music, but the Government is aware that anarchists and revolutionists use a code of signals much resembling musical notes for their communications; this may be some political cipher. You must wait five or six months, and then, perhaps, I may be able to give you your box.'

"There was nothing for me to do but to take my leave! I set to work to rewrite from memory many of the compositions, and soon forgot all about my ill-fated trunk.

"Some years after I happened to be one day in Bernard's music warehouse, and the manager said to me: 'By the way, we have lately bought a lot of your MSS.—single sheets of various pieces, written in your own writing.'

"'Where did you buy them?'

"'We bought them at an auction, where they were selling bundles of MS. music as waste paper!'

"'Oh, pray go,' I said, 'and buy in all of it for me.'

"'Unfortunately it is too late; all was disposed of.'"

"What had happened? The custom-house officer, or who ever he was, probably advertised in *The Police News* for the owner of the box. As I do not read that paper I did not appear to claim my property, and so all my unfortunate MSS. were sold off at so much the pound!

"Some years later, when applying for a foreign passport, the worthy functionary told me with great glee that he had bought a number of my MSS. among a lot of waste paper—evidently the remains of my trunk-load!"

Here is another story at Russia's expense:

"I will relate what (in itself) unimportant incident led me to consider the unsatisfactory social condition of the musical profession here, and first gave me the desire of establishing the position of my brother artists. This is what happened. Once, during the fifties, I went to confess in the Kasan Cathedral (St. Petersburg). After I had finished I approached the table to have my name inscribed in the book.

"'Your family, rank, and calling?'

"'Rubinstein, artist.'

"'What, do you serve in the theater?'

"'No.' The deacon was annoyed—I also.

"'I am an artist—musician.'

"'Yes, yes, I understand; are you in service?' *i.e.*, of the Government.

"I repeat, 'No—I do not serve.'

"'But who are you then? How am I to describe you.'

"These questions continued several minutes, and I don't know how matters would have ended if the deacon had not had the happy thought of asking,

"'But who, then, is your father?'

"'A merchant of the second guild.'

"'Ah, all right, now we know who you are,' said the deacon, joyfully; 'we will write you down as the son of a merchant of the second guild.'"

The same number of the London *Musician* that reprints the above extracts from the autobiography gives also the following incidents from "a German newspaper":

"Rubinstein was giving a concert in a large Austrian town.

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"After the concert was over he was given a portfolio filled with paper money—the receipts of the evening. Among the crowd awaiting to witness his departure he noticed a lady whom he had known in St. Petersburg as a talented pianist. Approaching the lady he inquired in a kindly manner about her career.

"'Ah! master, I never perform now, I gain my living by teaching only.'

"This was enough for the kind-hearted Rubinstein; he instantly forced his portfolio upon her, and made the astonished lady happy for life.

"Knowing the exceeding goodness of Rubinstein's nature, we willingly believe that similar events were not rare in his career.

"He was sometimes very quick-witted. A lady once begged him for a seat at his concert, where, of course, there was not a single place to be had.

"'I have only one seat,' he said, 'but I will willingly give it up to you.'

"'Oh, thank you! How good you are! Really I don't know what I have done to deserve such kindness! And where is the seat?'

"'At the piano.'"

A BRILLIANT NEW NOVELIST.

A FEW months ago an anonymous novel entitled "The Descendant" was published which at once attracted the attention of the reviewers and received some very strong praise from the best of them. It now transpires that the author is Miss Ellen Glasgow, a Virginian, who was less than twenty-two when she finished this, her first published book. So reticent was she on the subject of her work that even the members of her own family were kept in the dark until the book was ready for publication. The story is of one Michael Akershem, who, being an outcast from society as the illegitimate son of a man of the world and a rural maiden, drifts to New York and becomes the editor of *The Iconoclast*, through which he wages bitter warfare upon society and especially upon the institution of marriage. An innocent young girl, of artistic talent and somewhat Bohemian taste, becomes attached to him and the two unite their lives, but without any ceremony of marriage. The reversion of the hero to the domestic type from which he sprang follows and is quickened by the influence of another woman of generous nature, order-loving and home-loving, and this reversion, bringing about an estrangement from the young lady who had sacrificed herself for his sake, leads naturally enough to a tragic ending.

Of the young author, *The Critic* speaks as follows:

"Miss Glasgow was born in Richmond, Va., just twenty-two years ago. She is sprung from an old and prominent Virginian family, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. During the last six years she has pursued the study of physical science and political economy with unremitting ardor, and her familiars in the book-world are Spencer, Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Romanes, Mill, Bagehot, Clifford, and Weissmann. This has given her imaginative work a scientific basis, and has developed her poetic sense of things into a concreteness of form that rarely is found in the work of women. George Eliot is the grand exception, and it is this tendency in Miss Glasgow which presumably has caused some of her loving friends to advertise her rashly in the same category. She will be wise not to heed such indiscriminate praise, but to be faithful to her own ideal. There is sufficient power and originality together with a love of beauty in her first book to lift it above the ordinary, and to make us look forward with eagerness for her next work in fiction. It is certainly difficult to explain the marked sympathy with the mystery of pain and the tragedy of failure in the work of one so young and adolescent. Such deep sympathy comes from intuition rather than from knowledge, and betokens the possession of that high order of mind which we call genius, but which often lacks staying power."

A few further particulars are given in *The Month* (July):

"The value of her book as a piece of creative work is heightened by the fact that she has led a rather secluded life. A delicate child, she had little school training, altho she was always an omnivorous reader, and had the real child's appetite for fairy-tales—a passion which she admits she has never quite outgrown. She says herself that she remembers learning to read in order to enjoy unassisted the pages of Grimm's Tales and of Sir Walter Scott. By the time she was thirteen, she had learned to love Robert Browning, and he has never lost the first place among poets in her heart, altho Swinburne holds a close second. This imaginative development was perhaps no more than one often sees in a bright child. But in Miss Glasgow's case there was much more. At the age of eighteen she began a systematic study of political economy and socialism. . . . She brought her mind to a point where her imagination was held in check, altho not fettered, by her scientific training. As one who knows her intimately says of her: 'Law and the workings of phenomena by law became her point of view.' All this abstract science has been unable, however, to banish the inborn love of stories. To this day, Miss Glasgow finds her greatest intellectual enjoyment in a fine novel, and it seems almost a matter of course that Thomas Hardy should be to her the first of all novelists, living or dead, altho it is less clear why she should prefer 'Jude the Obscure' to any of his other books. It is a far cry from Hardy to another prime favorite of hers—Lafcadio Hearn—and one more readily understands why her special favorites among novels should be 'Les Misérables,' 'Vanity Fair,' and 'Anna Karénina.'"

SAINT-SAENS'S RECOLLECTIONS OF GOUNOD.

SOME interesting comments on the works of Charles Gounod, by his friend and fellow composer, Camille Saint-Saëns, are published in the *Revue de Paris*. While affirming that it is too soon to attempt to fix the position which Gounod will occupy among the great creative musicians, M. Saint-Saëns believes that his fame will increase with time, and that future generations will acclaim with enthusiastic admiration the production of his masterpieces. The high honor in which France holds his genius will be extended throughout the world, and he will always be regarded as one of the masters of expression in music. Of the great composer's early years of study and toil M. Saint-Saëns writes:

"When Charles Gounod, fortunately for the cause of art, decided, after a brief trial of clerical life, to adopt music as his life-work, he realized that his chosen career would be one of difficulty from the first. The only grand concerts of serious music were those of the Conservatory, and these were inaccessible to new authors. There remained the theater, where he could hope, sooner or later, to find an opening, and he thought at first of trying his fortune with the Opera Comique. It was at this beginning of his career that I had the happiness to meet the young master at the house of a Dr. Hoffman, in whose salon were held reunions to which Gounod was attracted by a number of pretty women, patients of the doctor and admirers of the musician. I was then about twelve years old and Gounod was, perhaps, twenty-five, but by my knowledge of music and my enthusiasm I attracted his attention and sympathy. He was then writing, in collaboration with a brother-in-law of the mistress of the house, a comic opera from which we sang selections in our private gatherings. Already in these first efforts we could see the marked personality, the purity and steadiness of style, and the accuracy of expression—those qualities in which he was afterward to attain to such eminence. About this time he became acquainted with Mme. Viaudot, who obtained for him from Emile Augier the poem 'Sapho' and opened for him the doors of the Grand Opera. From this period we can see that his genius had taken form, and that it was only needful that it should find an opportunity for development. It is difficult to say how much he had learned from his teachers, Reicha and Lesueur. The first doubtless taught him the mechanism of his art, but his cold and unpoetic nature was not in accord with the warm temperament of the young student. The mysticism of Lesueur pleased him more, but mixed with the little gold which he found in the works of the author of the 'Bandes,' there was a great deal of useless dross.

"In the course of his religious studies, Gounod had learned the art of declaiming in the clear and correct style necessary for the pulpit, and his familiarity with the Scriptures no doubt gave

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him a desire to interpret them musically, and prompted the flood of religious music which, notwithstanding the attractions of the theater, never ceased to flow from his pen. It was his ecclesiastical experience, rather than the influence of Lesueur, from which he derived his taste for the grandiloquence and emphasis so often encountered in his work. Whether or not this is a defect, it is a quality rare in music: absent from the works of Haydn and Mozart, it is shown a little in those of Sebastian Bach and Beethoven; among the modern composers it is found in Verdi and Liszt, and especially in the works of Handel, whom no one would accuse of lacking in grandeur.

"With the beginning of his friendship with Mme. Viaudot Gounod entered into a new world. This celebrated woman was not only a great singer, but a great artist and a living encyclopedia of knowledge. Having for associates Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Rossini, George Sand, Ary Scheffer, and Eugene Delacroix, she was informed on all matters connected with literature and art. Music she had mastered to the smallest detail; in the new artistic movement she was a leader; and as a pianiste of the first rank she interpreted at her home the works of Beethoven, Mozart, and Reber. It is not difficult to imagine how favorable such surroundings must have been for the unfolding of an infant genius. The love of song, native in Gounod, developed in him greater than ever; to him the human voice was always the original element, the sacred bulwark of his musical city."

Through the influence of Mme. Viaudot the opera of "Sapho" was produced, that lady appearing in the title rôle for four evenings. The new work was severely criticized by the press and after its sixth performance was withdrawn from the stage. Of Gounod's second opera, "Ulysses," M. Saint-Saëns says:

"My intimate friendship with Gounod dates from the time when he was engaged on the music for the choruses of 'Ulysses.' The young composer played the piano very agreeably, but lacked technical skill and found some difficulty in interpreting his scores. At his request I spent several hours with him nearly every day, and from his freshly written pages we interpreted the new work. Full of his subject, Gounod explained to me his intentions and imparted to me all his ideas and desires. . . . We expected a great success for the new opera on its first performance, for which a complete and carefully selected orchestra, an excellent company, and magnificent scenery left nothing to be desired. Alas! the performance was a lamentable failure. An audience composed largely of literary people, who cared little for musical art, received coldly the impressive choruses; the work appeared to them very wearisome, and in some parts brutally realistic. Some verses in the last act were received with shrieks of derisive laughter."

While striving for distinction as a writer of dramatic music Gounod found time for writing his great religious works, on which M. Saint-Saëns comments as follows:

"In his works written for the church, Gounod was a daring innovator. He brought into religious music not only the result of his researches into orchestral sonorousness, but also his preconceived theories on the subject of grandiloquence and accuracy of expression, applied in an unusual manner to Latin words; all joined to a great carefulness of vocal effect and a new sentiment uniting divine and earthly love under the safeguard of fulness and purity of style.

"The scheme of his two oratorios is admirable, apart from the music; a theologian alone could accomplish such works. . . .

"It was a bold undertaking to write a Latin and Catholic work for Protestant England. The reception, reserved at first, but afterward cordial enough, given in that country to the 'Mors et Vita,' so different from the oratorios of Handel and Mendelssohn, was equally an honor for the work which made its way by its powerful qualities, and for the people who recognized its greatness."

Some of the marked characteristics of Gounod's work are thus described by M. Saint-Saëns:

"'What an elegant style is that of Berlioz,' said Gounod to me one day. The word 'elegant' is happily descriptive. The elegance of Berlioz, however, does not appear at first sight in his clumsy and awkward writings; it is concealed in the body of his work, where it prevails to such a degree that no comparison with the work of other composers is possible. With Gounod the case is just the reverse. His writings, of an undeniable surface elegance, cover at times certain depths of coarseness; he is 'popular' and for that reason his work was appreciated long before that of Berlioz, whose 'Damnation of Faust' did not attain popularity until after the death of its author. This vulgarity of style—if vulgarity it can properly be called—can be compared with that of Ingres (of whom Gounod was an admirer); it is as an infusion of plebeian blood put into the muscles to counteract the nervous element of which a predominance would be dangerous; it is Anteus renewing his strength by touching the earth, but it has nothing in common with the trivialities against which Gounod's most illustrious predecessors had not always guarded. Gounod aimed high, but his constant regard for expression brought him, as all who believe in realism from time to time, down to lower levels. This realism itself opened a new and fruitful way to music. For the first time we find in his work, added to the descriptions of the union of hearts and souls, that of the communion of touch, of the perfume of loosened hair, and of the intoxication of breaths during the exhalations of youth."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

Feminine Influence on American Thought.—In a paper on "The Modern American Mood" (in *Harper's* for July), William Dean Howells calls attention to the potent influence on our natural thought and life exerted by woman. He says on this point:

"Shall I go a little farther and say that this American world of thought and feeling shows the effect, beyond any other world, of the honor paid to woman? It is not for nothing that we have privileged women socially and morally beyond any other people; if we have made them free, they have used their freedom to make the whole national life the purest and best of any that has ever been. Our women are in rare degree the keepers of our consciences; they influence men here as women influence men nowhere else on earth, and they qualify all our feeling and thinking, all our doing and being. If our literature at its best, and our art at its best, has a grace which is above all the American thing in literature and art, it is because the grace of the moral world where our women rule has imparted itself to the intellectual world where men work. When it shall touch the material world to something of its own fineness, and redeem the gross business world from the low ideals which govern it, then indeed we shall have the millennium in plain sight."

NOTES.

LOVERS of music will be glad to know that Dr. Antonin Dvorak, the famous Bohemian composer, is coming back to this country to resume direction of the National Conservatory of Music.

IT is now announced on authority that Dr. Nansen will make no less than $150,000 out of "Farthest North." Editions have already appeared in England, Germany, France, and America, and the Dutch and Norwegian editions are just coming out.

WHAT strange things your critic will say when pressed for inspiration! In an article on Johnson in *The Speaker*, Augustin Birrell incidentally offers this advice concerning dust: "You should never dust books. There let it lie until the rare hour arrives when you want to read a particular volume; then warily approach it with a snow-white napkin, take it down from its shelf, and, withdrawing to some back apartment, proceed to cleanse the tome."

MAURUS JOKAI, the prolific Hungarian novelist and poet, author of more than three hundred volumes which have been translated into almost every spoken language, is now at work upon an epic in the form of a drama. The subject is taken from the earliest Magyar history, from the time of the legendary Arpad. It is to be called "Levente," and Jokai says he has hopes it will "take a place in Magyar literature somewhat similar to that filled by the 'Nibelungenlied' in German literature."

JOHN A. LOGAN'S recent visit to Russia furnished him with material for a book entitled "In Joyful Russia" which has just been issued. Mr. Logan devotes a chapter to Slavic literature, in which he says: "No literature owes more to other contemporaneous and nearly contemporaneous literatures, has borrowed more from them, than Russian literature. None is more individual, more characteristic, more distinctly national, more sharply, radically, diametrically, and unmistakably different from all literatures past and present. The men of letters of no other nation have been so swayed by French, German, and Byronic thought as have the writers of Russia. . . . The Russian author adapts rather than adopts. He absorbs. He is inoculated with French feeling, German thought, and Byronic manner, but he is the veriest Russian at the core and on the surface, and so are his books."

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SCIENCE.

A NEW THEORY OF THE ROENTGEN RAYS.

THEORIES of the X rays are increasing in number, and the scientific man who has not propounded two or three can scarcely be said to be up to date. In *The Electrical World*, June 26, Prof. Elihu Thomson suggests one that opens up an interesting train of thought, whatever may be the verdict of science regarding its tenableness. It is in line with the suggestion made recently by the professor's English namesake, Prof. J. J. Thomson, that the cathode rays may be streams of matter decomposed into more primitive or elemental substances. We quote a few paragraphs from Professor Thomson's article—enough to give an idea of his theory:

"For some years past the writer has felt that some light might be shed upon the nature and relations of the so-called elements could we attain exceedingly high temperatures by any means. The elements may have been evolved in the order of their complexity in a manner similar in some respects to the species of plants and animals. . . .

"A temperature of less than 4,500° C. above absolute zero is not high when it is remembered that there can be no upper limit assigned to possible temperatures. Our chemistry is now all confined, so to speak, within lower limits than 4,000° to 5,000° C. and even within these limits most known compounds are decomposed or dissociated. Can we not raise our plane of temperature and give birth to a new chemistry in which the present elements, tho apparently stable hitherto, shall become dissociated into simpler forms; for that they are complex is to be inferred from the complex spectra which all, not excepting hydrogen itself, possess?"

Professor Thomson here describes an experiment planned by him several years ago for the production of very high temperatures by confining an electric discharge in a very strong short steel cylinder. This experiment was never performed, but Professor Thomson thinks that the discovery of Roentgen has made it unnecessary, since the X ray may be regarded as the product of a temperature even higher than could thus be produced. Says the author:

"The idea came that in the Crookes bombardment stream the conditions, upon collision with the platinum anode, must represent those of an exceedingly high temperature of the gas. With certain exciting apparatus of great power it was found that the bombardment was so energetic as to heat in a few seconds an anode plate one-sixteenth inch thick and an inch square to intense glowing heat. Considering the small mass of the molecules of gas projected from the cathode, the velocity of their movement was seen to be extremely great if they were to convey the energy delivered in so short a time to the platinum anode. The layer of gas immediately in front of the platinum must, it appeared, reach an extremely high temperature, and represent in a measure the conditions sought for in the proposed experiment with the steel tube above described.

"The question arose: Could it be that the increase of vacuum was after all due to the formation, out of the gas, of small amounts of denser materials, or even that the elementary gases were decomposed at the high temperature only to reform on cooling, but with a small 'tarry' residue, so to speak, polymers perhaps, or denser, non-volatile elements? If this were so, then the gas should eventually all disappear in the same way. It does disappear, but how? We have guessed, but may be mistaken. We need to know more of it.

"Considering these matters it occurred to the writer that a cause for the production of Roentgen rays might be found if the elements were dissociated into simple or more primordial matter. . . . If the residual elementary gases are broken up into simpler and finer matter within the area of the bombarded spot, the normal electromagnetic rates of vibration of that finer matter should be far higher in pitch or of shorter wave-lengths than in the case of the ordinary spectrum. According to this view there would be no oscillation so slow as ordinary light originating in the finer matter dissociated from the elements at the exceedingly high temperatures represented by the colliding molecules or atoms immediately at the front of the platinum anode. All the wave-lengths emitted as normal to the new forms of matter, only existent at the highest temperatures, would be of the Roentgen-ray order, and a spectrum of such rays might characterize the matter present, as the ordinary spectrum does the low-temperature combinations. But absence of diffraction and refraction effects thus far are formidable obstacles to such analysis of these higher-pitch rays."

A number of interesting deductions are made by Professor Thomson from his hypothesis, among them that there may be stars so hot that within them there is only "primordial" matter, dark to the eye, but shining with Roentgen rays which might be let out some time if a rift were made in the exterior. Again, he suggests that the hot but dark interior of the sun may be constituted in the same way, and that sun-spots may give us glimpses of it.

Professor Thomson concludes modestly as follows:

"These ideas are not scientific in the limited sense; they are the result of imagination allowed free scope in dealing with imperfect data. The whole fabric must stand or give way according to fitness in the light of advancing knowledge of real facts. The history of science and invention shows that progress often depends upon a fortunate leap in the dark, and that no harm can come from consideration of many suggested hypotheses in a field where so little is known. To forewarn is to forearm even if the final result is to expose a fallacy."

DISREGARD OF CLEANLINESS IN OLD HOSPITALS.

A DESCRIPTION of lack of cleanliness in English hospital practise so recently as sixty years ago is given in *The Practitioner* (June). It is almost revolting, but serves to emphasize very strongly the influence that the gospel of cleanness, in the guise of the theory of aseptic treatment, has had on surgical practise. To quote a paragraph or two:

"Sixty years ago the operating-theater was the dirtiest room in the hospital. There was no apparent reason why it should be otherwise. It was as clean as a butcher's shambles, and that was sufficient to satisfy the fastidious. The surgeon operated in the dirtiest coat in his possession—a coat stiff with blood and animal filth. He was as proud of this blood-stained rag as a peer of ancient lineage may be of his faded ceremonial robes. . . . The expectant patient received scant attention as he lay upon the table, with his eyes turned to the rafters, listening acutely for that footstep which would tell him that the hideous moment had come. He could relieve the tedium of waiting by watching the sawdust being thrown down to catch his blood, and by listening to the graceful converse of the medical student of the day. Finally, into the hushed arena would step the great surgeon, and about his entrance would center some such suppressed thrill as would attend a great matador when he stepped into the ring. There was something heroic about the surgeon of sixty years ago. . . . Every movement of his terrible blade through the quivering flesh was made horrible by moans and shrieks, by entreaties and curses."

Commenting on this *The Hospital* says:

"It is probable that the horrors of the operating-room had something to do with the low status of the nurse in those days. There was a feeling, says Miss Wood, almost amounting to repulsion at the thought of entering a hospital as a nurse; it was considered indecent, unwomanly, revolting—and indeed there was much in our hospitals at that period to justify these feelings. It was only by degrees that the decencies and refinements of nursing, now the invariable custom, but then introduced in the teeth of opposition on the part of the authorities, were accepted, and this advance has been due to the nursing sisterhoods, bodies of religious women who, in King's College, Charing Cross, and other hospitals, were quietly leavening the practise of nursing."

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THE ORIGIN OF COAL.

THE important recent modifications in our ideas of the manner in which coal was produced are summarized by Dr. Philippe Glangeaud in *La Nature* (Paris, June 12). We translate a large part of his article below:

"It is not long since we have had no exact idea of the manner in which coal was formed. It was once supposed that it was due to the influence of the 'central fire'; we were far from suspecting that it had an organic origin. It is chiefly by the discoveries of French scientists that we have been able to solve this problem, which is so important both from the scientific and the practical point of view.

"In the first place observation showed that coal is made up of vegetable remains, more or less altered, mingled with a brown substance, coming also from the decomposition of vegetable matter. This proof led certain scientists to believe that coal had come from the burial of forests in the place where they had grown. A luxuriant vegetation must have covered the soil, and on the remains of the vegetable species that fell and decayed sprang up new plants. This assemblage formed a considerable accumulation of vegetable matter. According to the theories then in favor, a cataclysm soon took place; the forest was covered by waves charged with sands and clays, under which the vegetable mass disappeared. Quiet was restored, another forest grew on the remains of the first, and a new cataclysm covered this also with new sands and clays. Thus was explained the alternation of coal-bearing strata with rock and slate that was observed in coal regions.

"This theory, which was current for some time, could not be sustained by a close examination of the facts. In fact, it was noticed that the layers of coal were very regular, and that trunks of trees had often been found with their roots in the air; finally, it was impossible to admit that vegetation could be preserved in the open air. It was necessary that it should be removed from the action of the air in order to be altered into a combustible mineral.

"After having made a large number of observations of this kind, M. Fayol, a French engineer in charge of the coal-mines at Commentry, was led to propose a new theory of the formation of coal—a theory based on facts and experiments, a rational theory, which has now gained the adherence of all scientific men.

"The mines of Commentry are in part worked in the open air, so that it is easy to observe the relations of the different strata that make up the region. M. Fayol noticed at first that the pebbles constituting the pudding-stones were formed of rocks whose place of origin was sometimes quite distant. As to the coal, it was the result of vegetable *débris* laid down in horizontal layers, one above the other. He concluded from these data that a liquid must have been necessary to transport and arrange in this way these different elements. Coal, then, was not formed in the place where it grew; it is a product of transportation.

"The climate of the coal epoch being very moist, abundant floods carried away trees and whole forests and swept them into lake basins. The trees thus formed great rafts of logs, like those on certain American rivers. . . . The heavier materials, gravel, sand, clays were deposited in the order of their density. The lighter vegetable matter floated longer and was deposited last. Thus is explained why the layers of earth and coal are not parallel, and why all these layers, as has been observed in deltas, are inclined in the same direction and at different angles.

"M. Fayol tested his hypothesis by experiments on rapid sedimentation. He reproduced artificially, with the aid of small torrents, all the circumstances observed in the coal basins of the central plateau. The facts observed to-day at the mouth of the Mississippi make M. Fayol's hypothesis even more probable.

"But the results reached do not stop here, from a scientific point of view. While the old theory required thousands of centuries for the formation of a coal basin, the theory of flotation enables us to understand that a relatively short period would have been sufficient to form the depressions in which the coal was deposited. The discovery of boulders of coal, found in several basins, even justifies the conclusion that the coal was formed before its transportation by the water.

"So coal was the result of the flotation of vegetable matter and its deposition in lakes."

M. Glangeaud here notes that not all coals were formed from trees and large plants. Some were the product of very small, almost microscopic, algæ that covered the surface of still water. Such were the coal-beds called "bogheads." The writer concludes as follows:

"To sum up, attentive and careful examination of the constitution of coal enables us to understand the different ways in which it could have been formed. Science has probably not said her last word, and perhaps new discoveries are at hand that will throw new light on the question of the origin of the most important combustible mineral, without which the activities of the nations would be quickly brought to a standstill."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

MARCONI'S SYSTEM OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

MUCH has been said recently about the system of telegraphy without wires invented by the young Italian electrician Marconi, and a good deal of it has, unfortunately, been more or less sensational. Experiments on wireless telegraphy have now been going on for years. Messages have even been sent for two or three miles across water. Marconi has made a considerable step in advance by the use of very ingenious apparatus. We have already quoted a general popular description of his results (see LITERARY DIGEST, April 3, 1897), and we now give a more detailed account of the means by which he achieves them, as abstracted from *The Electrician*, London, by *The Electrical World*:

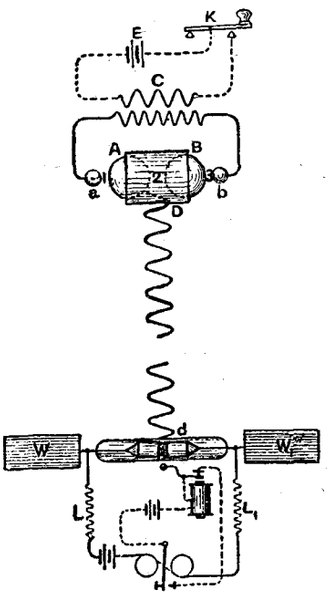

FIG. 1.—DIAGRAM OF MARCONI APPARATUS.

"Mr. Marconi utilizes electric or Hertzian waves of very high frequency. He has invented a new relay which, for sensitiveness and delicacy, exceeds all known electrical apparatus.

"The peculiarity of Mr. Marconi's system is that, apart from ordinary connecting wires of the apparatus, conductors of a moderate length only are needed, and even these can be dispensed with if reflectors are used. His transmitter is Professor Rigaud's form of Hertz's radiator (Fig. 1).

"Two spheres of solid brass, 4 inches in diameter (*A* and *B*), are fixed in an oil-tight case, *D*, of insulating material, so that a hemisphere of each is exposed, the other hemisphere being immersed in a bath of vaselin oil. Mr. Marconi uses, generally, waves of about 120 centimeters [47 inches] long. Two small spheres, *a* and *b*, are fixed close to the large spheres and connected each to one end of the secondary circuit of the induction-coil, *C*, the primary circuit of which is excited by a battery, *E*, thrown in and out of circuit by the Morse key, *K*. Now, whenever the key, *K*, is depressed sparks pass between 1, 2, and 3, and since the system *A B* contains capacity and electric inertia, oscillations are set up in it of extreme rapidity. The line of propagation is *D d*, and the frequency of oscillation is probably about 250,000,000 per second.

"The distance at which effects are produced with such rapid oscillations depends chiefly on the energy in the discharge that passes. A 6-inch spark-coil has sufficed through 1, 2, 3, up to 4 miles, but for greater distances we have used a more powerful coil—one emitting sparks 20 inches long. It may also be pointed out that this distance increases with the diameter of the spheres

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A and *B*, and it is nearly doubled by making the spheres solid instead of hollow.

"Marconi's relay (Fig. 1) consists of a small glass tube 4 centimeters long, into which two silver pole-pieces are tightly fitted, separated from each other by about half a millimeter [$\frac{1}{50}$ inch]—a thin space which is filled up by a mixture of fine nickel and silver filings, mixed with a trace of mercury. The tube is exhausted to a vacuum of 4 millimeters [$\frac{1}{6}$ inch], and sealed. It forms part of a circuit containing a local cell and a sensitive telegraph relay. In its normal condition the metallic powder is

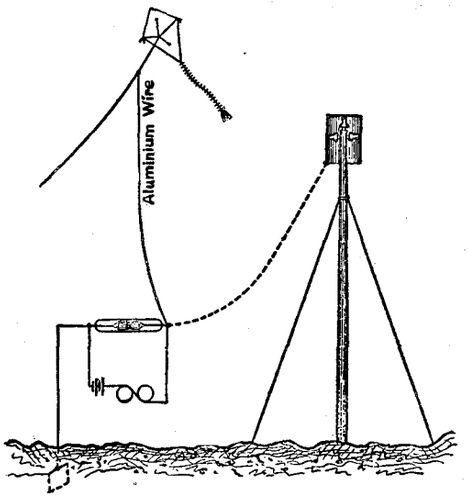


FIG. 2.—CONNECTIONS WHEN USING POLE OR KITE.

virtually an insulator. The particles lie higgledy-piggledy, anyhow in disorder. They lightly touch each other in an irregular method, but when electric waves fall upon them they are 'polarized'—order is installed. They are marshaled in serried ranks; they are subject to pressure—in fact, as Prof. Oliver Lodge expresses it, they 'cohere'—electrical contact ensues, and a current passes. The resistance of such a space falls from infinity to about five ohms. . . . Prof. Oliver Lodge, who has done more than any one else in England to illustrate and popularize the work of Hertz and his followers, has given the name 'coherer' to this form of apparatus. Marconi 'decoheres' by making the local current very rapidly vibrate a small hammer-head against the glass tube, which it does effectually, and in doing so makes such a sound that reading Morse characters is easy. The same current that decoheres can also record Morse signals on paper, by ink. The exhausted tube has two wings which, by their size, tune the receiver to the transmitter by varying the capacity of the apparatus. . . .

"In open clear spaces within sight of each other nothing more is wanted, but when obstacles intervene and great distances are in question height is needed—tall masts, kites, and balloons have been used. Excellent signals have been transmitted between Penarth and Brean Down, near Weston-super-Mare, across the Bristol Channel, a distance of nearly nine miles.

"Mirrors also assist and intensify the effects. They were used in the earlier experiments, but they have been laid aside for the present, for they are not only expensive to make, but they occupy much time in manufacture.

"The wings shown in Fig. 1 may be removed. One pole can be connected with earth, and the other extended up to the top of the mast, or fastened to a balloon by means of a wire. The wire and balloon or kite covered with tinfoil becomes the wing. In this case one pole of the transmitter must also be connected with earth. This is shown by Fig. 2.

"There are some apparent anomalies that have developed themselves during the experiments. Mr. Marconi finds that his relay acts even when it is placed in a perfectly closed metallic box. This is the fact that has given rise to the rumor that he can blow up an ironclad ship. This might be true if he could plant his properly tuned receiver in the magazine of an enemy's ship.

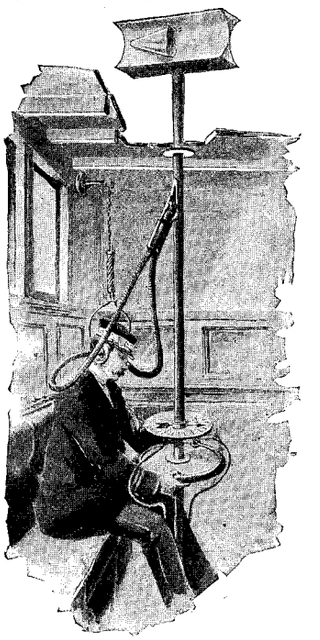
"The distance to which signals have been sent is remarkable. On Salisbury Plain Mr. Marconi covered a distance of four miles. In the British Channel this has been extended to over eight miles, and we have by no means reached the limit. It is interesting to read the surmises of others. Half a mile was the wildest dream.

"It is easy to transmit many messages in any direction at the same time. It is only necessary to tune the transmitters and receivers to the same frequency or 'note.' . . . Tuning is very easy. It is simply necessary to vary the capacity of the receiver, and this is done by increasing the length of the wings, *W*, in Fig. 1. The proper length is found experimentally close to the transmitter. It is practically impossible to do so far away."

THE EOPHONE—WHAT IS IT?

THIS is a device, whose purpose it is to discover the direction of sounds at sea. *Cassier's Magazine* gives a picture showing how it looks and how it is used, and we reproduce this with the accompanying text, which is somewhat fuller and clearer than anything that has appeared elsewhere:

"Of the several aids to safe navigation which have been brought out within the past few years, the **eophone** is a very promising example. As defined by its makers, it is an apparatus designed to enable an observer to determine quickly, and with great accuracy, the direction of an object or station from which acoustic signals are transmitted. . . . The principal features of the instrument are two sound-receivers or collectors, separated from each other by a vertical partition, and so placed that sound-waves, striking the partition at any angle, will be directed into or against the receiver on that particular side. The receiver on the other side of the partition will, at the same time, be so protected by the latter that the sound-waves can not enter it. In order that the observer may readily determine which receiver is, at any given time, within the range of the signal and which in acoustic shadow, so to speak, the receivers are provided with separate conveyers, or tubes, through which the sounds are transmitted to the observer. By these he is enabled at once, and with certainty, to ascertain which reflecting surface is, for the time being, exposed to the direct action of the sound-waves proceeding from the transmitting-station. Having ascertained this fact, he moves the apparatus about its vertical axis until the opposite receiver is made responsive to the sound-waves, thereby locating the transmitting-station at a point between the two positions from which observation had been taken. By moving the apparatus back and forth and carefully noting the alternate response of the two receivers, the observer is enabled quickly to adjust the apparatus so that the sounds, transmitted from both receivers, will be equal, and when this point has been determined, the longitudinal axis of the partition will stand on the line drawn from the transmitting to the receiving-station, thus fixing the direction or position of the transmitting-station and enabling the navigator to approach or to avoid it as may be desired. The whole outfit, it will be observed, is simplicity itself. As to its efficiency, it would seem from what experience has been had with it that excellent results are obtainable, and a number of vessels, among them the United States battle-ship *Indiana*, have it in regular service. It has been found that the wind whistling over the edges of the partition and the receivers causes disturbing noises in the transmitting-tubes. . . . This difficulty has been removed by surrounding the sound-receivers with a curtain of silk."



THE EOPHONE.
From *Cassier's Magazine.*

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TELEPHONE-REPEATERS.

LONG-DISTANCE telegraphy is made practicable by the use of relays, whereby the current at the end of one line automatically repeats its message to the next, and so on. In telephony no such system has yet been put in working order, tho inventors have been busying their brains to devise one. What is wanted is a telephone-receiver that will act as a transmitter to a second line, thus passing on, with renewed strength, as it were, the message that has come to it with just enough strength to be heard. Such a device at the end of the longest circuit now in use would enable us to add to the end of this circuit a second one of equal length, and so on indefinitely. *The Electrical World* says on this subject:

"It is a curious fact that so far the efforts of inventors in the direction of producing a practical telephone-repeater have met with uniform lack of success. The utility of such a device is so apparent, and its value so enormous, that it is remarkable that it has not yet appeared. There is an old rule that whenever a thing is needed very greatly it sooner or later makes its appearance, and this is particularly true in regard to electrical inventions. It does not seem possible that it can be much longer before a perfected repeater will be in general use. Until that time the probabilities are that we will not have intercontinental telephony.

"It seems that the telephone-repeater will provide, eventually, the solution of the difficult problem of telephony through long submarine cables. While it is not difficult in the present state of the art to operate specially constructed land lines up to and even exceeding 1,000 miles in length, the difficulties of the operation of long-cable circuits are appalling. It is not impossible that by subdivision of the cable and the use of repeaters we may be able in time to converse with our friends in Europe. . . . It is greatly to be hoped that either this or some other simple device will soon be found to solve the difficult problem now confronting telephone engineers."

Cosmetics from a Scientific Standpoint.—"When we hear of fine ladies painting and powdering their complexions, and are told of the secret arts of the enameller, we are perhaps too apt to say that these attempts to imitate a beauty which does not exist are but proofs of the artificiality of modern life," says *The Hospital*. "No greater mistake could be made. The truly beautiful do not puff. It is the consciousness of a deficiency which leads to all these devices, and nothing can be more common among even the lowest intelligences, nothing can be more 'natural,' if one may use the term, than the tendency to hide peculiarities and deficiencies. Even among lunatics this sort of instinct shows itself. According to Dr. Claye Shaw, the striving to put oneself in accord with nature—in other words, to rectify deformities—is common in the insane, especially among the women. The hair ought to be glossy,—therefore, in the absence of other means to produce this characteristic, they purloin the mutton fat, . . . by which to produce the desired effect; or when their complexions are not all that they would desire, they boil down their stockings so as to get the red dye out of the county mark, because that is their only substitute for rouge, and they elevate common whiting to the dignity of *poudre de riz!* And all because bruising and blotching must be hidden up! Perhaps even the savages who daub themselves with war-paint do so to hide the bruises which warfare produces. Nay, it is even suggested that scarlet is chosen as the color of our soldiers' uniform because the exciting effect of the flow of blood is not so clearly seen upon it as upon a background of other colors. The use of puffs and powders, and other facial decorations, is not then a matter of pure vanity, or esthetic culture, but is a mere manifestation of the savage instinct which leads all creatures to hide every mark by which they differ from the normal."

The Centers of Atmospheric Action.—"Under this title," says the *Revue Scientifique*, "M. Hildebrandsson, director of the meteorological observatory of Upsala, Sweden, has communicated to the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences the results of his investigations on the regions where the maxima and minima of the mean barometric pressure meet.

"The monthly differences between the pressure of the air and the mean height of the barometer, considered as the principal meteorologic element, were calculated for the years 1875 to 1884 for sixty-eight stations scattered over the entire world, and the mean differences were plotted on monthly charts. The drawing of lines of equal differences leads to the following results, according to *Nature:*

"1. The differences are greater in winter than in summer, and increase from the equator toward the polar regions. The barometric variations in certain countries, for example in the Azores and in the neighborhood of Iceland, are almost always of opposed signs, especially if the variations are important.

"2. The greatest differences are found in January and July, in the neighborhood of Greenland and Iceland on one hand and to the north of Russia, between the White Sea and St. Petersburg, on the other hand.

"The discussion of the results seems to establish the fact that in all places the pressure of the air undergoes a sort of oscillation between the center of action of high pressure and another adjacent center of low pressure. According to the author, the attentive study of these relations should lead to practical results from the point of view of the forecasting of the weather."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

TWO more aeronauts have fallen victims to their zeal for the advancement of science. A German inventor, Dr. Wölfert, and an assistant named Knabe, were killed on June 12, while making trial of a navigable balloon invented by Dr. Wölfert. "The balloon," says *Science*, "was being exhibited at Berlin before the officers of the ballooning section of the army, when the gas was ignited by the benzin used in the motor."

"IF it be true that, according to the old saying, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,'" says *The Sanitary Plumber*, "so also may it be said that 'the proof of the plumbing is in the testing.' At no time has this been so pronounced as at the present time, and whether it is by water, air, peppermint, or smoke, no plumbing system is now accepted without some one or other of these tests being applied. The two first, however, are generally only applied to the iron-pipe work, while the peppermint is sometimes used when all the fixtures are in position, but with very deceptive results. The smoke test, as a last resource, seems to meet the difficulty, and it only remains to inquire into the existing facilities for its application."

PROF. IRVING FISHER, in a recent address before one of the societies in the Sheffield Scientific School, sharply criticized a proposed rule that would exclude from membership all who do not intend to adopt some scientific profession. He said, as quoted by *The Yale Scientific Monthly:* "Under this rule, if Charles Darwin had been a student in the Scientific School (probably he would have taken the select course), he could not have been admitted to this society, for he was studying for the ministry. Despite his early interest and marked ability in science, he would have been rejected because he did not then intend to make science his life-work. Sylvester and Cayley would have been passed over on the same ground, and in their case the intention of becoming lawyers was actually carried out for several years. Sir John Lubbock has been and is still a banker. To my mind no more ideal member . . . . could be found than he. In the city of Providence lives a president of a bank who regularly attends the lectures at Brown University on the Theory of Functions."

NEWSPAPER reports of trouble at the National Observatory in Washington prompt *Popular Astronomy* to make the following remarks: "Exactly why this uncommon thing now happens to prevail in that locality scientific people at a distance are left to surmise. It can not be due to the change in administration, for several of the men are about ready to be retired on account of age and long honorable service, nor for differences of scholarly opinion, because the routine work of that great observatory generally involves only matters in astronomy, the debatable part of which science has settled long years ago. There can be no questions about best methods of ordinary astronomical observation. There is little difference of opinion in the minds of scholarly astronomers about suitable methods of reduction of observed data for practical and scientific uses. So it is extremely difficult to realize the sufficient cause that underlies any harmful estrangement between great men called to national service in the maintenance of astronomical science. The grand new building, the fine equipment of instruments, the genial surroundings and generous provisions made by the Government for the comfort and convenience of astronomers domiciled there, ought to furnish inspiration for indefatigable work and associated power in it unequaled elsewhere in the world. America makes telescopes equal, if not superior to the best. America has astronomers without peers elsewhere in almost every line of astronomical research. America has a half-dozen great observatories that ought to stand in the forefront in scientific conquest, and as wise arbiters in the high court of investigation, where scholarly dignity and genial placidity reign supreme. What is the matter with the working staff of our National Observatory?"

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

A "BRIDGE BETWEEN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY."

ONE of the great but little-known curiosities of literature is the Book of Sohar, the famous thesaurus of Jewish mysticism, the official exponent of the Kabbala of traditional Judaism. It is claimed by those who recognize its high religious character and authority that it was prepared about the year 130 A.D. by Simon Ben Jochoj, of Galilee. Critical investigators claim that it was compiled in Spain about the year 1300 A.D. by Moses di Leon on the basis of older productions. It has enjoyed great popularity and has even met with favor among the Christians, the popes who burned the Talmud encouraging the publication of Sohar on the ground that this book constituted a bridge between Judaism and Christianity. In the *Nathanael* (Berlin), Professor Dalman, of Leipsic, probably the greatest living Christian authority in post-biblical Jewish literature, gives a synopsis of this unique book, and from this source we glean the following:

The Sohar is really a mystical commentary on the Pentateuch. Through allegorical interpretation of the narratives, personages, and words of the Scriptures, it unfolds a system of thought closely akin to neo-platonic philosophy and the old gnosticism of the primitive church. Its fundamental thoughts are developed in the following manner:

The origin and the end of the world are the two greatest problems for reflection. The present world originated by a process of emanation, by which God produced the potencies out of Himself, upon the cooperation of which the existence of the world depends. There are ten of these potencies, of which the first three, Wisdom, Intelligence, and Knowledge, show God to be the wise originator of the order of creation; while in the second triad, namely, Grace, Judgment, and Order, he appears as the Author of the orderly arrangement of the world; and in the third triad, viz., Glory, Eternity, and Foundation, he appears as the real Creator; and in the tenth potency, in which all the others terminate, the created world, in so far as this is the manifestation of divinity, is found represented. This last potency is called "Kingdom" or "Shekinah," *i.e.*, manifestation of divine grace, also called "Queen." This is the product of those three "spheres" in which God manifests Himself as the Creator. As God is generally called "King" and is considered as the male principle, the union of King and Queen conditions the orderly existence and development of the world, and the separation of these two principles is the cause of evil for the world.

The world that originated through emanation was thrown into disorder through sin. The most important fact in this connection is this, that the harmony between the "King" and "Queen" was broken, and the influence of the latter was undermined. The consequence of this was the supremacy of the "shells," in which the Queen is now held as in a prison, *i.e.*, the world has ceased to be the pure exponent and expression of its divine source, altho divine power is still the cause of its existence. If the order of creation is to be restored, then the "King," and the "Queen," *i.e.*, world order and world foundation, must again become united, by which the relation between the upper sphere and the lower sphere is again restored and the "shells" are caused to disappear. In that case the world again becomes the reflection of its divine Author. The work of this restoration has been the mission of Israel, being accomplished by the observance of the law and by prayer, as all such deeds are regarded as an enrichment of the higher sphere with the sparks of light rescued from the "shells," by which process again the power of the "shells" is diminished; the whole development facilitating the reunion of the "King" and the "Queen." It is the historic mission of the Messiah to complete this work of the restoration of the world. He is regarded as the incarnation of the "sphere" of the "King" and unites with himself the "Shekinah" (Queen) and then descends upon the earth. Under his rule the world is delivered of idolators. Israel, revived and awakened from the dead, fills the earth with its people, until finally the transfiguration of the world has been inaugurated, and in this process the self-revelation of God has attained its purpose. Jesus and the Christianity He has founded are not an advancement of this divine revelation, but have rather interfered with its development, and therefore in the new world to be reestablished there will be room for neither Christ nor His followers. Their place will be in the "shells," in the "darkness," in the "other principle." When these things that cover the divine light shall disappear, they too will disappear with them. Whatever of true light was in them will return to God. If the original order of creation was of the nature of a male-female duality in which back was turned to back, in the end in the restoration the attitude shall be face to face, *i.e.*, the stage of the most perfect self-revelation of God has been attained, in which no further darkness can have any place.

Professor Dalman concludes by comparing briefly the Christian with the Sohar system, and, notwithstanding certain outward agreements, he sees a great gulf fixed between them.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

PURITANISM AS A WORLD-RELIGION.

PURITANISM existed before Christianity, if we are to believe Henrietta Christian Wright, and its mission is yet unaccomplished even in this country. It is, according to her, only the manifestation of spirituality as opposed to materialism, and the faith of the fathers of New England was only one of its forms. She says (*Intelligence*, New York, June):

"Puritanism was not born in the starved and chilling rock borders of the earth. It is a child of the sun, and was reared and matured amid the splendid efflorescence of the East, in that age of which we have no record save the mystic tradition, which relates how God Himself walked with man in gardens radiant with immortal bloom.

"From that time we see its heavenly flame lighting, here and there, the shifting shadows of history. We may trace its course through the valley of the Euphrates to the Indus; along the sands of Egypt; by the fountains of Greece; in the catacombs of Rome; vanishing always when its light revealed purity obscured by dogma, and faith degraded to ceremonial. Later it reappears in the mystical societies of the Middle Ages, flashes before the rapt visions of the followers of the Grail, and illumines the cell of the encloistered monk. Finally, it is revealed to the world at large, and receives the name by which it has been since known. Wherever found it preserves two distinct characteristics—which are never absent—its separateness from the world, and its entirely spiritual function. Wherever we find these two lights paling before the grosser flames of materialism, we see Puritanism fleeing, like the lost vision of the Grail, from the field of its would-be followers.

"In England its first feeble spark was fanned, by the hopes of Colet and Erasmus, to a flickering beam which flamed later into the signal fires of a new faith. It is significant that this light, which burned only in the holy of holies of ancient culture, should have filtered through the transcendent intellectuality of the sixteenth century, to find its chosen shrine in the hearts of the English middle classes. The reason is not far to seek. The trend of Puritanism has always been away from materialism; and the intellectuality of the Elizabethan age as well as its other ambitions and accomplishments was entirely material. Even its religious questions, which split the nation into two hostile camps, were those of dogma and creed only."

The Puritan's best work, according to Mrs. Wright, has always been spiritual rather than physical or intellectual, tho even along these latter lines his progress has been noteworthy. Says the writer:

"Intellectually his best achievement is found in the epic of Milton, the immortal dream of Bunyan, the spiritual intellectuality of Emerson, and the intellectual spirituality of Channing. The world could lose these and still be rich in intellectual treasures. But it could not lose without mortal hurt that golden essence of spirit which works upward through Puritanism and without which all national achievement resembles in degree the spiritual darkness of savage power, or the unmeaning civilization of China.

"This silent, upward force was felt from the beginning in the

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upbuilding of the new country. While the South was founding an aristocracy and the middle colonies supporting an order of patroons and landed gentry resembling the feudal system, Puritanism was quietly preparing the way for the establishment of the republic. For thirty years after its founding the Plymouth colony was a pure democracy and after a republic under charter from the crown. For one hundred and fifty years after the landing at Plymouth the best effort of Puritanism was not outward toward materiality but an inward spiritual growth, which became so much a part of the fiber of New England blood and brain that whatever it touched it transfused with its own vital force.

"The intellectual movement to which we owe the origin and development of American letters was but one expression of this larger life. Much more vital were those altar fires of spirituality which burned in many a simple home and from which were lighted the flames that illumined the whole nation in its hour of greatest darkness. Gradually the hidden energy rounded to its sphere and embodied the idea of the ages—the idea of the self-government of the nations."

In spite of all that it has done for this land the central mission of Puritanism still remains to be accomplished here. Says Mrs. Wright:

"Throughout the ages the hopes of man have centered around these three principles of righteous national life—Liberty, whose root is knowledge; Equality, whose root is justice; Fraternity, whose root is love. In our political system the third number of this holy trinity remains yet unaccomplished. The liberty of our forefathers was a liberty of popular rights. The equality of the emancipation was an equality of individual rights; the fraternity of the future must be a fraternity of social rights; and, however diverse the conception of the work, it is certain that it can be wrought out in this one only way, the way of Puritanism, the separation from the world and the following of the inner light.

"Whether this land, which received in its youth the accolade of this holy knighthood, will go forward and achieve the quest no one can tell. Puritanism has always chosen the *via crucis*, and not unmeaningly has the cross become one of its most sacred symbols. Whether the stupendous, the overwhelming materialism of the day will ever find its Calvary no one can predict. History has taught us that the divine light must be fed and cherished if it steal not secretly away."

Theology in Germany.—Recent statistics show that the total number of theological students in Germany has diminished very rapidly of late years. In 1890 the number in the various universities was 4,527, while in 1896 it was 2,956. At Berlin, where the most famous professors are usually to be found, the decline is nearly fifty per cent. This has been attributed by some to the very meagre salaries paid by the state. *The Living Church* cites the foregoing facts and gives what it considers a better reason for the declining number of students. It says:

"At the majority of the great universities, the theology taught by the faculty is hardly any longer worthy of the name of Christian. At Greifswald and Erlangen, however, the old orthodoxy is still maintained, and it is precisely at these two universities that the number of theological students has increased instead of diminishing. This can hardly be without significance. The learned professors who distinguish themselves by undermining the religion they represent at first attract students and gather followers through the very novelty of their position; but as time goes on the natural result follows, namely, that as not enough is left of Christianity to distinguish it from the world, such teachings lose their interest. Men do not see any reason why they should make it the business of their lives to be telling people that they need not believe what they have hitherto supposed they ought to believe, and that they are going on very well as they are, and have no need to trouble themselves. Of course, if there are good livings to be had, there will be candidates for them. In this case there are neither good livings, nor is there any reason why men should starve in poor ones, so long as other walks of life are open to them. Men will be willing to starve or sacrifice themselves for a great and noble cause; but it would be insane to do so for no cause at all."

WAS SHAKESPEARE WITHOUT RELIGION?

A DEGREE of interest in a very old subject has been revived by an article in a recent number of *The New World* by Professor Santayana, of Harvard University, on the question of the religious element in the writings of Shakespeare. Contrary to the belief of many, Professor Santayana thinks that the great English poet has expressed no religious sentiment. "Shakespeare," he says, "is remarkable among the greater poets for being without a philosophy and without a religion." This lack of a cosmic background and of a spiritual purpose to his works prevents them, he thinks, from attaining to the very highest dignity and pathos. This defect is attributed to the times in which Shakespeare lived. Christianity, as formulated in the sixteenth century, was too narrow for the poet's world-embracing mind; and no broader conception had come to him.

Professor Santayana finds, however, if not religion, at least the suggestion of spiritual passion, in Shakespeare's sonnets. "The sonnets, as a whole," he says, "are spiritual; their passion is transmuted into discipline. Their love, which, whatever its nominal object, is hardly anything but love of beauty and youth in general, is made to triumph over time by a metaphysical transformation of the object into something eternal. At first, this is the beauty of the race, renewing itself by generation; then it is the description of beauty in the poet's verse; and, finally, it is the immortal soul, enriched by the contemplation of that beauty."

The Christian Register (Unitarian, Boston) refers to the opinions thus expressed by Professor Santayana, and cites a recent book by Mr. E. J. Dunning, "The Genesis of Shakespeare's Art," for a contrary and, as it thinks, a more sound and satisfactory view. It says:

"Whatever may be the verdict of Shakespearian critics upon his special theory of the composition of the sonnets, the student of religion must be grateful to Mr. Dunning for calling attention to the spiritual element in Shakespeare. If there are not here the definite outlines of a theology, there are all the elements of religious emotion.

"Shakespeare may have been no saint; but neither was he a stranger to tender and reverential feeling, and he could write

> How many a holy and obsequious tear
> Hath dear religious love stolen from mine eye!

Who can read the ninety-fifth sonnet without being touched by its sweet seriousness, as the ethical is lifted above the esthetic, in the appeal to one dowered with the beauty which 'doth cover every blot'?

> Take heed, dear heart, of this large privilege.

The whole idea of consecration is expressed in the address in the one hundred and forty-sixth to the 'Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth,' where it is urged to

> Buy terms divine in selling hours of dross:
> Within, be fed; without, be rich no more.

"When Shakespeare speaks of love, he begins with natural human love, which centers in a person. But, in every great poet, love is transfigured; that which was natural becomes spiritual; that which was individual becomes universal. The boyish love of Dante for the little Florentine girl, Beatrice Portinari, was the suggestion, but not the measure, of his worship for the Beatrice of the 'Divina Commedia.' Tennyson's affection for Arthur Hallam led him to write 'In Memoriam'; but, before the poem ends, he says, 'My love is vaster passion now.' And, whatever may have been the original occasion or intent of Shakespeare in his sonnets, it is evident that he was soon swept along by a 'vaster passion.' Then his love became to him more than a fleeting emotion. He speaks of it religiously; it is bound up with thoughts about duty and destiny. It is thus he writes of his heart's love as something no longer the sport of time, but founded on the eternal:

> No: it was builded far from accident.
> It suffers not in smiling pomp, nor falls
> Under the blow of thralled discontent,
> Whereto the inviting time our fashion calls.

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It fears not policy,—that heretic
Which works on leases of short-numbered hours,
But all alone stands hugely politic.

"Professor Santayana may be right in saying that Shakespeare was 'without a religion,' if by that is meant that he was unable to accept any form of religion which in his day had been accepted by the church. But, if we think of religion as an elemental force, we can not admit its absence from his works."

THE WHITSITT TROUBLE AGAIN.

THE controversy which raged all last year in the Southern Baptist Church concerning certain statements made in an encyclopedic article by Rev. Dr. W. H. Whitsitt, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., as to the historical basis of the rite of baptism by immersion (see LITERARY DIGEST, May 23 and July 25, 1896), was finally settled, so it was generally supposed, at the Southern Baptist convention at Wilmington last May, when Dr. Whitsitt retracted some things which he had written, and an amicable understanding was apparently arrived at all around. But the matter has not been allowed to rest. At a meeting held in June the Kentucky General Association, a Baptist body, determined by a vote of 106 to 67 not to let the agitation against Dr. Whitsitt drop. The resolutions adopted urge the trustees of the Louisville Seminary to insist upon "the retirement of Dr. W. H. Whitsitt from the institution and from the chair of Church History."

Giving a *résumé* of the action of the association relative to Dr. Whitsitt, *The Independent* says: "If, under the economy of grace, stupidity counted as a sin, the Kentucky Association would be as scarlet." *The Examiner* (Baptist, New York) detailing the same action, says:

"This is cool enough to make an iceberg shiver. Well, we presume the trustees will consider the recommendation in the light of the action of the more representative body which met at Wilmington not long ago, and quietly ignore it. We admire pluck and endurance in a fight for principle, even to the transmission of it from 'bleeding sire to son'; but the warfare upon Dr. Whitsitt on account of a difference of opinion with regard to a mere matter of historical interest looks to us more like a 'Kentucky feud' of the vendetta type than a manful struggle for a principle. What Baptist cause would suffer, indeed, were Dr. Whitsitt's contention shown to be absolutely true? What Baptist principle would gain if he were proved mistaken? It would still be our duty to follow Christ in baptism—that is, to be Baptists—if from the death of John the Apostle to this present hour not one believer had been immersed on confession of his faith. Our churches do not rest on tradition or superstition, but on the teachings of our Lord and the inspired Apostles, as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. No matter what the fathers did, we must obey Christ—and that covers the whole case."

The Journal and Messenger (Baptist, Cincinnati) thus refers to the present situation:

"It is evident enough that there is another side to be heard before Dr. Whitsitt is retired from the Seminary, and that it may turn out that a good many brethren in Kentucky will find themselves in the minority yet, and that, after all, Dr. Whitsitt is in about as thorough 'touch with the denomination' as they themselves are. We are not convinced that landmarkism and 'church-successionism' are essential to a Baptist, and must be held by one who would be 'in touch with the denomination.' There are strong men in Kentucky on the side of Dr. Whitsitt, and it is by no means certain that the opposition to him can carry its points in the Southern Baptist convention. *The Biblical Recorder*, of North Carolina, detailing the process by which the vote was carried, sums up as follows: 'It appears to us that this was a piece of political work; and if it was, it is a disgrace. Dr. Whitsitt has done all that a man can do; he has sought to effect an honorable peace. In the name of God, we should have it.' The Alabama *Baptist* can see no good reason for reviving a controversy which was supposed to be settled at Wilmington, and regards it as peculiarly fortunate that the management of the Seminary is in the hands of a board of trustees, rather than in those of a popular body like the Southern Baptist convention or the Kentucky convention."

The Watchman (Baptist, Boston) says:

"The real contest in Kentucky, and wherever the Whitsitt controversy is now carried, will not be between those who agree with Dr. Whitsitt or differ from him as to certain historical facts; it will be between the ritualistic party in the Southern churches, and those who stand for the liberty and spirituality of the Gospel. It is the relation of his views to a certain theory of 'churchly extension' which sets his opponents going. In suffering the contest to be transferred to this ground Dr. Whitsitt's opponents have taken up a position which is radically indefensible and contrary to the spirit and genius of the Baptist churches. We regret that our Southern brethren are obliged to go through this conflict, but there is no manner of doubt that Dr. Whitsitt's opponents are seeking to incorporate into our Southern churches a test of fellowship and of orthodoxy to which the Scriptures give no warrant. There are occasions when we can not, for the sake of peace, suffer our brethren to bind upon our necks a yoke which the Gospel repudiates."

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

THE New York *Freeman's Journal* says that there are in the United States 249 Catholic publications.

THE Year-Book of the Jews makes the statement that there are in the world 13,000,000 of that race, and that one half of them live in Russia.

THE different kinds of Presbyterians in South Africa have united in one General Assembly, in which the Free Church, the United Presbyterian, and the separate presbyteries of Natal, Cape Town, and the Transvaal are represented.

THE United Brethren General Conference, at its recent session, had a discussion of the word "obey" in the marriage ceremony of their discipline. A large number of women had interested themselves in the matter and worked for its elimination, but the Conference refused, and the word remains.

The Catholic Gazette, of London, said some months ago that 15,000 persons had been received into the Roman Catholic Church in England in the fifteen months previous. Father David, the Rome correspondent of *The Catholic Standard and Times*, of Philadelphia, says that the true figures are 12,000 converts in twelve months. He adds that the converts come from the middle classes, and that the movement toward the Church of Rome has been accelerated since the publication of the Pope's letter denying the validity of Anglican orders.

IT is cabled to the New York *Sun* that the "find" of papyri by Messrs. Grendell and Hunt, on the borders of the Libyan Desert, is proving unexpectedly valuable. It comprises a dozen leaves, each 5½ by 3½ inches in size, remarkably well preserved, and clearly written in uncial characters of the ancient Greek. It dates about sixty years after the crucifixion. It has easily been translated, and is found to consist of detached sayings of Christ, without context, each beginning with the words, "Jesus saith." The translation will soon be published by the Egypt Exploration Fund.

The Religious Herald, of Richmond, describes a new organization having the title of "The Church Debt Liquidating Company." This is nothing more nor less, it is said, than an organization into which ten colored churches of various denominations in New Orleans have entered, with a view of reducing their indebtedness. The "Company" began its career with a "May Festival and Congress of Nations" at Spanish Fort, in New Orleans, and the last report was favorable to its financial success. It is announced that, when it has discharged the debts of the ten churches whose burdens it has now assumed, it will take a batch of ten others.

The Evangel, of Baltimore, has an editorial concerning a work of co-operation, begun six years ago in Maine, between the five leading religious denominations of that State, by which it was agreed that when one denomination occupied a sparsely settled community the others would not try to establish churches in that territory. The Congregationalists, Methodists, Free Baptists, Christians, and Baptists entered into this agreement and appointed an interdenominational committee to carry out this policy. Recently a conference has been held, and all concerned express themselves as pleased with the workings of the plan. It is claimed that such comity saves a great deal of friction between the denominations, and also a considerable sum of state mission money.

THE English "Church Reform League" has addressed a letter to 1,000 of the London clergy, which contains the following passage indicating the policy which has been determined upon for the present: "Experience has proved that, even under the most favorable circumstances, it is now practically impossible (even if it were desirable) for Parliament to "reform and cleanse" the church; and therefore, instead of any longer wasting time and energy in fruitlessly trying to pass a series of ecclesiastical bills through Parliament, a large body of us have banded ourselves together in order to try and get one short enabling act passed which will make it possible for the church at any time, through her properly constituted and representative assemblies, subject only to the supremacy of the Crown and the veto of Parliament, to effect all necessary reforms herself."

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FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

RECENT REVIEWS OF BRITISH ARMAMENTS.

THE late Jubilee celebrations in England have emphasized two important facts regarding Great Britain's armaments: her immense naval strength and her weakness on land. Foreign critics agree that the ships of the British navy are, type for type, equal to any constructed in other countries. Numerically the British fleet is undoubtedly equal to any three other navies. The most imposing proof of the sea-power of England is that the 169 bottoms assembled at Spithead form only a fraction of her fleet. No ship was withdrawn from a foreign station, and there are yet a number of serviceable ships in the docks. With pardonable pride *The St. James's Gazette* says:

"With no desire to brag, we can fairly recognize that the fleet at Spithead is such a force as no three powers in Europe could collect; not, at least, if we take into account what is not visible on a mere survey of the ships, but lies behind them, and is yet necessary for their full use—the skill to handle the ships and their innumerable machines, the spirit, the confidence which long practise and old memories give, and the ports all over the world where they will be received as friends.

"A navy is the most mobile, the most far-reaching of warlike weapons, but only when the skill to wield it is not wanting and when it is sure of finding its stores everywhere. Now, we may assert—not as boasting, but because there has been little brag, and the lesson of the frigate action of the war of 1812 has never been forgotten—that the skill of our navy is second to none; while the whole combined world hardly presents such a choice of ports as we can rely on being able to use. To-day, when a fleet depends for its motive power on coal and not on the wind, this is an inestimable advantage. No fleet will any longer sail sure of being able to find food and water everywhere, and needing little else in addition to the stores it carries in its hold. A ship dare not go out of reach of the port where it can renew its fuel freely and without having to depend on the doubtful good-will of a neutral. Unless he knows that there are friendly ports everywhere, the naval captain of the future will be tethered to a space round his dockyard. Who else is there who can rely on finding parts of his own country in every sea."

Handsome compliments have been paid Great Britain upon the appearance of her fleet. The *Tribuna*, Rome, calls it "the best symbol of the British Empire." The *Temps*, Paris, says:

"We need feel no petty jealousy; every nation has a right to develop its forces. We do not see any threat in this incomparable display of force, nor anything that can awaken sore recollections. It is glorious for France to have faced the Queen of the Ocean with sailors worthy of the mettle of Collingwood, St. Vincent, and Nelson. Between great nations, just as between men of gentle breeding, there is a sort of freemasonry which ennobles past struggles and enables one to admire with serene unselfishness."

The *Gaulois* expresses itself in similar terms. The naval expert of the *Figaro* says:

"The English manifest their joy somewhat noisily, perhaps, but I do not blame them. I admire them and my admiration is not untinged with envy, for it is to themselves, to their energy, to their tenacity, their indomitable will, that they owe it."

The *Echo de Paris* fancies the display "was a little theatrical, but none the less real." The English papers have quoted extensively from the most flattering comments in the French press. The more reserved criticism of other nations has, however, been ignored entirely by our British contemporaries. The Amsterdam *Handelsblad* thinks that the "Anglophile sentiment of the French official papers is artificial," and points to the warning of its own Paris correspondent, given some weeks ago, "that English financial influence is at work among the French papers." The *Imparcial*, Madrid, thinks the English ought to thank their stars for their good luck. German opinion, aptly described by the *Kladderadatsch*, is that the world expects England to do more than to make a show in order to prove her naval supremacy. The paper describes the situation by the following dialog:

"*Germania:* I mean to have the trident in *my* fist.

"*Britannia:* Allow me, but the trident belongs where it is now, and that is my fist.

"*Gallia:* Wait a minute, neighbor, you forget that I am here, and I expect to transfer the trident to *my* fist."

The only basis for the supposition that England's maritime strength is not as great as supposed is her reported lack of crews. The statement of the Paris edition of the New York *Herald*, that the British vessels "are merely balloon ships; if you prick them there is nothing left," is, of course, exaggerated; but even the English papers acknowledge that the British navy is undermanned, and that England has no adequate reserve, while France, Russia, and Germany have such a reserve. Canada, however, is expected to supply the deficiency. *The Monetary Times*, Toronto, says:

"It is undeniable that, if there is a weak point in the British navy, it is that it is insufficiently manned; it is also true that the nearest point at which this deficiency could be in part supplied is Canada. Training seamen by relays might do much to supply the present deficiency. Auxiliary naval aid is being supplied in different parts of the empire, each in its own way. . . . At a meeting of the United Empire League, in London, with the Duke of Devonshire for chairman and Lord Salisbury as vice-president, Colonel Denison, of Toronto, suggested that 75,000 Canadian seamen be trained as a naval reserve. The mere magnitude of the proposal must go a long way toward proving fatal to it, just as the million-dollar fund of Lady Aberdeen caused her scheme of a national nursing foundation to come into the world still-born."

Regarding the British army, the English press is little satisfied with the existing state of things. *The St. James's Gazette* is confident that "man for man, officer for officer, and, we will add, horse for horse, there is nothing to beat our best regiments of cavalry and horse artillery; and our best infantry—the Guards, the Highlanders, and some others—would go through a battalion of foreign conscripts as the *Magnificent* would go through a fleet of cruisers"; but admits that "the Guards, and the line battalions, not all of them made up of grown men of the size and stature of the picked troops we see on duty in London, would not leave us much infantry for supports and reinforcements if they were sent abroad," and continues as follows:

"'To give full effect to supremacy at sea,' says *The Times*, quite correctly this time, 'the fleet should be always supported by an adequate and easily mobilized army, tho not necessarily a large one.' Not a large one, certainly; but it should be capable of being raised to the full extent of three army corps, say 100,000 men, at the very first alarm of war. But we could not send 100,000 good troops abroad; we could not send 50,000; we could not send 25,000, without stripping the depots, leaving the Indian army bare of reserves, and making up the expeditionary regiments by denuding the battalions left at home of their best men."

The Spectator argues that, if enough money were spent, the army could be found. Continental observers think differerently. The *Hamburger Nachrichten* argues, in the main, as follows:

The navy is by far the most popular arm, yet it is not fully supplied with men. The modern Briton is little inclined to brave the hardships and dangers of a soldier's or a sailor's life. The percentage of foreigners, especially Germans, is ever on the increase in the British mercantile fleet and the navy. It is very characteristic that even the high pay offered in the British army can not induce a sufficient number of Englishmen to enlist. England, therefore, hopes for help from her colonies, but it is doubtful that the colonies can grant it. The quality of the British army has been tested on several occasions of late. The result has hardly been satisfactory. The character of the men who form a fighting force still determines battles to some extent, both on sea and on land. The last time that European navies ever encountered each other in battle was at Lissa, when the small,

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wooden squadron of the Austrians defeated the splendid, armored giants of the Italian fleet.

The correspondent of an American paper, *The Army and Navy Journal*, is responsible for the statement that foreign military *attachés*, especially the Germans, thought the British infantry to be composed of "immature striplings." Gen. Nelson A. Miles, however, informed *The Daily Mail*, London, that he had never seen a finer lot of troops.—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

RUSSIA ON HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

OF all the adverse foreign comments upon the projected annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States, the most significant, in the judgment of the American press, is that of the semi-official Russian organ, the St. Petersburg *Novoye Vremya*. Russia's traditional friendship for this country, so long regarded as a source of strength and safeguard against peril, does not seem to prevent her from expressing decided disapproval of the alleged "colonial policy" entered upon by the Administration. We translate the editorial from the paper which has just come to hand, as only the gist thereof has been conveyed by the brief cable despatches to the political dailies:

"The projected annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States of North America must be considered a political event of grave importance, on account of the consequences to which it may lead and its influence on the future of the New World. It constitutes the first decisive step away from that program and policy which the great Western republic has heretofore so undeviatingly followed since the very beginning of its existence. That nothing serious will result from the protest of Japan can hardly be doubted. Nor does it strike us as of any particular consequence that the impression produced on England by the sudden departure from the anti-colonial policy of the United States is not marked. English possessions are hardly threatened by the new policy. In fact, we attach little importance to the current talk about the alleged danger to French and German colonial interests, which the London papers are disposed to magnify. The real point is that annexation by the peculiar method of a treaty may serve as a precedent for the acquirement of Cuba by exactly the same process.

"The successor of Mr. Cleveland evidently treats the colonial question in a manner different from that of the late Administration. President McKinley will not think twice about admitting Hawaii, and, the first step having been taken, there is no reason to think that the Americans will rest contented. It is very probable that should Spain fail to suppress the rebellion in a reasonable time, the Cuban insurgents will form a provisional native government and enter into annexation negotiations with the United States. Spain is neither England nor France, nor even Germany, and the United States has no occasion to fear much from an armed conflict with her.

"To be sure, President McKinley talks, in his annexation message, about a 'consummation' of a long-established policy, about carrying out a long-cherished purpose, but why could not the same argumentation be repeated in the case of Cuba? Let the belligerency of the Cubans once be recognized by the United States, and will not, *ipso facto*, the right be accorded to the insurgents to form a government for themselves and decide their own political fate—decide in favor of absorption by the United States?

"All this is very grave, very much more serious than it may appear at first blush. The European governments which have grounds for resisting the increase of America's political power will henceforth have to be constantly on their guard, and to prepare themselves to come to the aid of Spain, which is menaced with the loss of her richest and largest colony in the New World.

"As for the claims of Japan, the situation is not very acute in that direction. Japan is uneasy about the Hawaiian anti-immigration measures, and fears that annexation may lead to still more radical attempts at excluding Japanese. The diplomacy from Washington may overcome these Japanese doubts and fears and perhaps promise to repeal the anti-immigration law. Should no protests follow from other powers, the Hawaiian Islands will be acquired without difficulty by the great Western republic, which has at last determined to enter upon a course of colonial acquisitions, and which does not propose to limit herself to the first steps now indicated."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

HOW GERMANY PROVIDES FOR HER WORKINGMEN.

TWO measures were adopted by Emperor William I. and Bismarck to check the rise of Socialism in Germany—repressive laws and laws for the improvement of the economical condition of the workingmen. The anti-Socialist laws (*Umsturz Gesetze*) were repealed shortly after the present emperor began his reign. Whether or not they had the desired effect is still a matter of controversy, for the Conservatives continue to agitate in favor of their reenactment, while the Radical press, whose attacks upon the Government and the emperor are hardly less virulent than those of the Socialist papers, fear that their own license would be curbed by laws directed principally against Socialism. The Socialists themselves declare that their agitation would receive a fresh impetus if repressive measures were taken against them. The laws for the improvement of the condition of the laboring classes are, however, a sore point to the Socialists. Originally they sneered at the money spent in this way as *Bettelgroschen*, *i.e.*, "beggar's pence," but lately they ignore these compulsory insurances altogether. The enormous amount of money handled by the Government Insurance Department may be gathered from the report of its chief, Dr. Freund. It should be borne in mind that the Invalid and Accident Fund has only been established ten years, and the Old Age Fund only six years. Hence only a fraction of the money that will eventually be turned over to the workingmen and their families every year is mentioned in the report. Dr. Freund says:

"The Invalid or Sick Insurance law during this period became applicable when it went into operation to 3,700,000 people, which number has now increased to 7,200,000. In all, some 21,000,000 cases of sickness were reported, amounting to 353,000,000 sick-days. The amount expended rose from 47,000,000 marks in the first year to 99,000,000 in the tenth, the sum-total furnished sick workingmen in this decade amounting to 757,000,000 marks [$189,000,000], paid either to the men themselves or to their families.

"In the Accident Insurance Department, according to the law, 426,000 concerns and businesses of all kinds were under obligation to insure their men against accidents to the number of 18,000,000 men. In the first year there were but 269,000 such concerns, and the number of insured 3,000,000. In all 91,000 accidents were reported, the victims of which received either themselves or through their families 361,300 insurance payments amounting to 193,000,000 marks [$48,000,000].

"The law providing for the needs of old age when workingmen are no longer able to support themselves is, in its present shape, really only six years old. Yet during this period this treasury has paid out 241,700 payments to old men and 101,500 payments to men permanently disabled. The sums-total then paid out to needy workingmen during the past decade were the following: The Sick Men's Treasury, 757,000,000 marks; the Accident Insurance Treasury, 193,000,000 marks; the Invalid and Old Age Insurance, 100,000,000 marks."

Forty-seven and one-half per cent. of this money has been contributed by the employers. It has been calculated that an old-age pension of $150 per annum will be the minimum when the pension fund is at its height. The recent decrease of emigration from Germany is partly attributed to this insurance against starvation, which, says the *Kölnische Zeitung*, "is not equaled in any other country of the world."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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RUSSIAN HOPES OF THE CONQUEST OF INDIA.

IT is pretty generally admitted by persons acquainted with India that Great Britain will hold this richest of the earth's countries as long as she pleases if the task of driving her out is to be left to the natives. A very different view is taken when the possibility of interference on the part of Russia is suggested. We find in *The Buddhist*, Colombo, an article by Mr. O'Dwyer, director of Land Records and Agriculture in the Punjaub, in which he expresses the opinion that, sooner or later, Great Britain must defend India against the hosts of the Great White Czar. Mr. O'Dwyer has visited the Russians in Central Asia, and is fully acquainted with their views. We take the following from his account:

"Three questions may be put with regard to this matter: 1. Do educated Russians, civil and military, regard the conquest of India feasible? 2. Do they regard it as expedient and desirable? 3. Are they anxious to bring it about at an early date? Practically all three questions must be answered in the affirmative. The Russians see that China, Persia, and the Asiatic provinces of Turkey are at their mercy, that the way is open to them into Afghanistan, that the Afghans are greedy for the spoil of India and will make common cause with them, and that the way is open to Russia when she has become perfectly mistress of Afghanistan. The conquest of India is regarded by the Russians as their mission or destiny, and as anything but a formidable task. They believe that the native populations are sick of British rule, which, for selfish ends, is keeping them in dark ignorance and has, by squeezing out of them all it can, reduced them to the lowest depths of poverty. The Russians further cherish the illusion that the loyalty of the native army to the British Government is not to be relied upon, and that, in any case, it contains no good fighting material and could never stand up to a European foe. Finally, the nervous apprehension with which, with some show of reason, they credit the English in India, leads the Russians to believe that Englishmen themselves feel their position to be extremely insecure, so that any shock from outside would shake it to the very center. The British soldier they regard as pampered, insubordinate, impatient of discipline, and altogether unable to hold out against the hardy Cossacks in a long and weary campaign. The Russian peasant may be an easy-going, peace-loving individual, but educated Russians are extraordinarily patriotic and ambitious, and the successes which have attended their arms and diplomacy during the past twenty years have inspired them with the belief that it is the destiny of the Slav to expand in every possible direction. They believe that they see decrepitude stealing over the British Empire, while their own is expanding with all the vigorous buoyancy of youth, and they proudly say 'the twentieth century is for us.'"

Consolidation of Central America.—The consolidation of Central America has advanced another step. It is very likely that the territory between San Benito and the Golfo Dulce will present a solid front ere the year is out. The little states, always jealous of each other, would not have consented to federation were it not that they are practically helpless whenever some foreign government makes demands upon them, or foreign adventurers interfere in their politics. The *Reichs Anzeiger*, Berlin, describes the latest example of this kind of interference as follows:

"June 15 the representatives of the United States of Central America, up to that time formed of Honduras, Nicaragua, and San Salvador only, signed a treaty with the representatives of Costa Rica and Guatemala, by which the latter states joined the federation. The legislatures of the states interested must ratify the treaty before September 15 of the present year.

"Certain events in the state of Honduras caused this state and Guatemala to overcome their objections to the federation, whose advantages with regard to diplomatic representation abroad are obvious. An English adventurer named Drummond had gathered a handful of fellows with whom he invaded Honduras, ostensibly to assist the defeated candidate for the presidency, de Soto, to remove his successful competitor, Bonilla. The raid, if successful, would have placed the small but very rich territory at the mercy of the filibusters. If it had not been for the assistance rendered by Nicaraguan troops, Drummond would have been master of the situation. As it is, he was forced to surrender to the troops which besieged him in Puerto Cortez, with the help of a gunboat. He was wounded, and the Government of the little state, conscious of its weakness, surrendered him and his English associates to the British Government. The whole business has a strong similarity to the Jameson raid which disturbed the South African Republic."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

DISCONTENT IN INDIA.

THE latest news from India is not reassuring to the British Government. A small detachment of British troops has been defeated on the Afghan frontier, and there is a good deal of discontent with British rule throughout India. The fight in the Tochi valley, which ended in the rout of Commissioner Gee's escort of 300 men, is not in itself a matter of great importance. By all accounts England's rule is merely nominal in those mountain regions. It is impossible for Englishmen to travel there without a large escort, and the tribes there are, like the Emir of Afghanistan, kept in good humor by large subsidies paid out of the Indian treasury. The Khyber Pathans, for instance, have agreed to refrain from robbing travelers in the Khyber Pass on Mondays and Wednesdays only—for a cash consideration. Mr. Gee went to collect taxes and to establish a military post, proceedings to which the natives objected seriously. The British press is unanimous in saying that a strong expedition must be sent against the offending hill-men. The Sheffield *Telegraph* says:

"Of course a punitive expedition will have to be sent, and the offending clan made an example of. The lesson taught will be sharp, but it will probably prove effective. Report attributes the outbreak to a fanatical Mollah, who is rather a notorious character in the neighborhood, and report, in this instance, is very probably correct. These Mollahs are continually causing trouble, as they have great influence with the Moslem tribes; and when, to their character as half priest, half saint, they add a wholehearted hatred of any law and order save their own, they are apt to preach something in the nature of a holy war to their ignorant admirers."

It is a noteworthy fact that the Russian press openly sympathize with the Afghans. The *St. Petersburger Zeitung* says:

"The English talk of a 'treacherous' attack, but that requires a little explanation. Those unconquered mountaineers do not recognize the introduction of civilization after the English pattern as justifiable, and defend themselves against it as best they can. What do they care for the treaty which gives the country to England? No sensible person will believe that the British troops went to the mountains for a breath of fresh air. They went to make war and had to expect fighting; if they were surprised and cut up in broad daylight they have only themselves to blame. The enemy can not be accused of treachery. Native troops are, however, cheap enough in British India, and this incident will serve as an excuse to extend British rule toward the north."

Of more importance is the news of serious disturbances in parts of India that have been in the possession of England for over a hundred years. British officials have been attacked and murdered in Poonah, their wives have been insulted, and there is strong suspicion that a widespread revolt is in preparation. *The Standard*, *The Morning Post*, *The St. James's Gazette*, and many other Conservative papers think the best means to stifle discontent is to suppress the native papers, and to give *carte blanche* to officers commanding troops in the disaffected districts. It is, however, doubtful that the Indians need the press. Some of the most outspoken complaints of British rule are circulated as leaflets. The text of one of these runs as follows:

"Let the civilized nations of the world hear the complaints of

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downtrodden and enslaved India. These millions of Arian brothers have a greater right to your consideration than even the people of Greece and Asia Minor. Not even a demon would have the heart to rejoice over his conquests during a time of famine, of pestilence and earthquakes. An ancient and noble people are being destroyed by a Christian nation. Is there no one to lift a finger in our defense, no one to curb the excesses of these English tyrants, who have now ill-treated us for a hundred years?"

German correspondents pointed out months ago that India is in a state of ferment. The London correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* writes to the following effect:

A Hindu expressed his views as follows, some time ago: "We are a good-natured people enough, and do not much care who rules us. But England has exploited us to the last drop of blood almost. The revolution is ripe. We know that the English are well armed, and that the Maxim guns which have been sent to India in large numbers are ready for us. But three hundred millions of people intent upon earning a right to live without being robbed outrageously will get their way even against Maxims. It is not solely the violation of homes on the part of the plague commissioners which causes discontent. Nor was it the greased Enfield cartridge which caused the mutiny of 1857. These things are only the drops which fill the cup to overflowing. One of the principal causes of discontent is the abolition of the patriarchal rule of the zemindars, the landed gentry. Wherever these have full sway, the famine has been felt much less than where the British officials exercise full control."

The Times of India does not doubt that the recent disturbances have a deep political meaning, and sober-minded Englishmen point to the necessity of reform. Mr. Donald N. Reid writes in *The Saturday Review* in the main as follows:

It is a melancholy fact that India is now practically in the hands of the lawyers, the money-lenders, the middlemen, and the police. The police are past-masters in the art of persecution, and planters and zemindars regularly bribe the police in order to escape trouble on their estates. The courts resent all interference with high-handed and corrupt officials, and even if a European succeeds in getting an official convicted before a lower court, he earns the unenviable reputation of a busybody, and the official is released by a higher tribunal.

The missionaries and their press have for years agitated against compulsory opium-growing, usury, official corruption, and other evils, but their influence is extremely small. So far the authorities seem inclined to treat the disaffection with a strong hand. The London *Morning Post* says:

"We are glad to hear that the Indian Government has taken a strong measure, and has proclaimed the occupation of Poona by a punitive police force which will cost the most disaffected portion of the community a lac and a half of rupees for the year."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

Bomb-Throwing and Nativism in Paris.—The recent bomb-throwing in Paris has increased Nativism to a considerable extent, not so much among the officials as in the press and among the people. An officer of the Legion of Honor informed the crowd in the Place de la Concorde that he knew well enough who had thrown the bomb. A detective followed him to his quarters, and asked him for the desired information. "The Prussians, sir," said the old gentleman, who was very wroth when the police laughed at this. The *Jour* is perfectly certain that foreigners committed the crime, and hopes the President will keep his movements secret, to prevent further attacks upon his life. An ex-member of the Chamber of Deputies, Millevoge, the editor of the *Patrie*, writes:

"The insane person, void of all patriotism, who committed this outrage intended more than a little excitement to be the result of his deed. He wished to desecrate a place hallowed by the most patriotic pilgrimages. I wonder what international spawn, what cosmopolitan dirt has generated him? . . . If we wish to live in peace, we must, above all, have a sharp eye on all foreigners. Take the whole of this cosmopolitan rabble which infests Paris, and throw them across the frontiers! We Frenchmen will then have a clearer conception of what is going on, and we will breathe more easily."

The *Soleil* reports that the German ambassador and his military *attaché* were among the first of the crowd which collected after the explosion. The German papers point out that the German embassy is in the Rue de Lille, hardly a stone's throw from the scene of the outrage, and that the curiosity of the ambassador was naturally aroused.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE ORIGIN OF KLEPTOMANIA.

PROFESSOR SCHMOLLER recently said that "no man can become a millionaire without getting dangerously near state's prison," an opinion which found an echo among the men of learning in Germany, who still refuse to recognize men possessed with the faculty of money-getting as their equals. The sentiment seems to have taken hold in England, for a writer in *The Progressive Review* claims that kleptomania is transmitted to women by fathers imbued with a criminal taste for money-getting. We quote as follows:

"Let the philosopher who delights to study the ways of men stand somewhere near the Bank of England. There he will see a rushing, crowding, seething, hurrying, worried mass. The weak is pushed aside, might is right, 'time is money,' and Mammon is God. That kleptomania is the direct outcome of this special instinct, there can be no doubt. But this does not explain the immediate origin of the disease, nor why it should be peculiar to the rich. It is with some diffidence that we venture to offer the following explanation. Let it be borne in mind that this disease, while observed only in individuals far removed by their position from the necessities which induce the poor to steal, does not afflict individuals who have themselves amassed riches, but rather those who have inherited riches amassed by others. This fact is full of significance. Consider for a moment how riches are acquired. The commonest method is to exploit the brains and labor of others, to give little and take much, to take advantage of the ignorance of those with whom one deals; in other words, by an elaborate system of theft and the elevation of larceny to a fine art. To take advantage of a number of workmen, victims of the competitive system, by compelling them to accept wholly inadequate wages so that a large aggregate profit may be made out of their earnings, is a system which can hardly be dignified by a better epithet than spoliation. Only the other day a large 'employer of labor' in the Midlands was showing a friend over his works. Presently they paused in one of the yards between the various buildings. Pointing to a workman some little distance from them the 'employer' said: 'That man earns me £5 a week.' 'What wages do you give him?' asked the other. 'Sixteen shillings a week,' was the astonishing reply. Exploitation of such a character could scarcely, we think, be justified by any other code of morals than that which obtains among modern capitalists. To our mind it is as much theft as any deliberate seizure of property dealt with, on detection, by the criminal procedure of the courts. In dealing and bartering, too, the principle to buy cheap and sell dear is in no way superior to the taking of a copper from the hat of a blind beggar.

"We can now trace plainly enough the origin of the distressing mental aberration known as kleptomania. Some near ancestor, possibly a father, who has pandered to an undisciplined extent to the collecting instinct, using all the weapons with which modern commercialism has armed him, knowing no scruples, heeding no voice of conscience however still or small, and eventually becoming rich, transmits to his descendant, a woman of weak will, the overmastering desire to acquire. He, endowed with fitting opportunities, was a manufacturer, a man of commerce, a speculator, or a company promoter. She, unable to exercise her instinct in the same grooves, not even realizing her bent, becomes a kleptomaniac. The propensity for deception, so pronounced in the former but exercised in the accepted modes, is present also in the latter, and takes the form of petty larceny."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE HIGHLY HONORABLE PRACTISE OF CANNIBALISM.

THE eminent Egyptologist, Dr. Flinders Petrie, is not, it is safe to say, a cannibal; nor does he advocate cannibalism as a practise which it is desirable to revive in these closing days of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless it is not straining a point to say that he appears as an apologist for the practise, or at least for those who indulge in it, and finds in it a quite touching expression of kindness, honor, and refined philanthropy!

He begins his apology (*Contemporary Review*, June) by declaring that "it is sheer mental prejudice against strangeness which puts even the innocent and affectionate cannibal below the moral offender," such a moral offender, for instance, as a rake or a gambler. "Does the utilitarian object?" he asks. "Yet one main purpose of the custom is utility; in its best and innocent forms it certainly gives the greatest happiness to the greatest number." We quote a couple of paragraphs more of the introductory part of Dr. Petrie's startling article, which is entitled "Eaten with Honor":

"When, a short time ago, it came to light that a civilized people, at about 3000 B.C., who had exquisite handicrafts, whose children played with choicely wrought toys, while their fathers carried on a widespread trade in the Mediterranean—when it appeared that these people habitually cut the heads from their dead and ate some portion of the bodies, no one would credit the notion. Every sort of explanation was started; but the facts could not be gainsaid, and the broken marrow-bones and piles of ribs and vertebræ told plainly how the Libyan invaders of Egypt had honored their beloved dead.

"And now this year it is found that one of the grandest and most capable people that ever lived—those who built the splendid masonry of the Pyramids, at once the greatest and most highly finished works of man; who carved some of the most lifelike statues, who organized society and labor on a great scale, who treasured a delicate moral feeling—that many of these people reverently buried the bones of their dead after elaborately removing all the flesh. Why they did so we can hardly doubt when we look at the ways of other races."

Dr. Petrie thereupon proceeds to look at the ways of other races, with the following results:

"When we classify the motives of cannibalism that are recorded, we find that in more than half the races mental motives prevail, and in rather less than half the physical motives of hunger or pleasure. We may roughly classify the motives thus:

	Per cent.
Honor, kindness, future good, love	20
To obtain strength or magic results	19
As a ceremony, or to acquire position	10
As a punishment	5
	—54
From hunger or need of food	18
From preference as food	28
	—46

The higher motives of honor and kindness prevail mostly in Asia, Australia, and South America, but seem to be unknown in Polynesia, North America, and Africa. The Tibetans considered it a glorious burial for their honored elders to be eaten; some Australians also eat the dead with the greatest and most solemn honor; and the Tupi and Capanahuas in South America did likewise. Besides this, it is often a matter of kindness and love for the dead. The Cucumas of South America said that 'it was better to be inside a friend than to be swallowed up by the cold earth.' And who will say that they are wrong? Such seems to have been the main sentiment in that quarter of the world, as it appears again among the Botocudos, Tapuyas, Mayoruna, Mundrucu, and Guyanis. The idea of protecting the dead from decay and putrefaction, which would befall them in the ground, and giving them a kindly and affectionate disposal among their friends and kin, is as far removed as possible from any brutality or baseness. In Central Australia the Yulugundis have a still more touching feeling; when lovers are parted by death, the survivor insures that they shall be united, in death if not in life, by consuming part of the dead. In Asia also we find the Samoyeds and Ostyaks saying that the elders will have a better future if eaten; and a tribe of the Gonds near the source of the Nerbuddah eat those who are fatally ill or aged as 'an act of kindness.' And in ancient times 'the Massagetæ and Derbices thought it a most miserable end to die of sickness, and killed their parents, relatives, and friends who had grown old, and ate them, preferring to do this themselves rather than leave it to worms,' as Jerome tells us. It is thus evident that there is a widely spread sense of protecting the beloved dead from the chilling loneliness and corruption of the grave by thus dividing the body among the survivors. . . .

"Other motives, for the benefit of the living, are also usual. The idea that eating the heart of a lion will make a man brave, or the legs of a deer will make him swift, is a common one in many parts of the world. And thus, by the same process of analogy, the Queenslanders will eat a great warrior who has died, to obtain his valor, or a dead baby in order to get its youth, the old people thus seeking rejuvenation. Among many other Australians this analogy is also powerful. In North America the Tlinkets thus consume the bravest who have fallen, and in the south the Yamas suck out the marrow from the bones in order to acquire the soul. Many other tribes in both America and Africa eat the flesh from reasons vaguely described as religious or superstitious. Certainly they expect to acquire some power and virtue by the custom. Somewhat similar, tho reduced to a mere imitation, is the eating in Vancouver and on the west coast of North America among many tribes.

"Lastly, the eating is a matter of hatred, as a punishment to criminals, among the Tators, the Aghora in India, the Battaks of Borneo, and other peoples; this is probably to prevent the dead returning to be avenged on the living; as the Greenlanders say that a slain man can avenge himself on his murderer by rushing into him, which can only be prevented by eating a piece of his liver. This same idea occurs in the Egyptian tale of 'Anpu and Bata,' where the queen desires to eat of the liver of the ox, in order that it may not come to life in any other form.

"Thus we see that, quite apart from the use of human flesh simply as food, in the majority of tribes the mental desires are prevalent, to honor or benefit the dead, to obtain their virtues, to acquire ceremonial position, or, lastly, to prevent their haunting the survivors."

The great moral objection to cannibalism, Mr. Petrie says further, is that it may lead to murder; but "in nearly half the tribes practising it, more or less, it is the dead who are eaten," and "in most cases where people are killed it is the sick, infirm, and aged, who in a low state of civilization, and especially among nomads, must find their lives a burden to them."

Dog Farms in China.—"There are in Manchuria, and in all that part of China adjoining Mongolia," says *La Nature*, "thousands of farms devoted exclusively to the breeding of dogs. Each establishment supports several hundreds of these animals, which are killed by strangulation when they have reached the age of eight months, generally about the middle of winter, in order to get their skins. These skins, which are large and covered with magnificent hair, thanks to the severe cold of this region, serve to make winter clothing for the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire. The dogs that furnish them, which are bred solely for these skins, are altogether different from our European varieties. It is not astonishing, therefore, that the skin should be so eagerly sought; is not the astrakan nothing but a sheep and the *petit-gris* a simple squirrel in winter garb? The fur-bearing dogs constitute the sole source of wealth of these desolate regions, and each farmer gives a certain number as a marriage portion to his daughters—not a very important gift, for the skins, the only reward of the breeder, do not attain a high value. In fact it takes eight dogskins to make a dress of two yards, worth about 15.85 francs [$3.17] which puts the average price of a skin at 2.10 francs [42 cents], a sum from which the cost of making of the dress and of the preparation of the skin must be deducted. The dogskins are sent to several commercial centers, whence the purchasers forward them to such places as Mukden or Foo-Chow,

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where they are made up. This trade represented last year a sum of 1,000,000 francs [$200,000] at Newchwang, one of the most important centers. The previous year it reached 1,500,000 francs [$300,000]."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

WOMAN AND PROGRESS IN INDIA.

THE author of that successful story of the Indian mutiny, "On the Face of the Waters," resided, as our readers already know, twenty-five years in India and has occupied the position of inspector of girls' schools. Mrs. Steel, who is a keen sympathizer with the natives and their national aspirations, has been expressing her opinions concerning the social and domestic progress of India, and especially concerning the position of women. On child marriage and similar topics so warmly discussed in England Mrs. Steel holds unconventional opinions. Interviewed by Mrs. Sarah A. Tooley, a writer in *The Humanitarian* (July), she is reported as saying in answer to the questions about Indian family life:

"In India it is held to be the first duty of a man to have a son, and to that end he must sacrifice his individuality. It is upon this underlying idea of heredity that the marriage customs are founded, and that is why neither man nor woman is allowed to have a choice in marriage. They regard marriage in India from such a totally different standpoint that it is difficult for a Western mind to grasp it. The idea of love or of personal gratification in marriage is quite secondary, hardly recognized at all in fact; marriage and the begetting of children is undertaken as a duty to the race."

"But surely you do not defend the custom of child-marriages in India, Mrs. Steel; are they not cruel and unnatural?"

"Certainly, no one can defend the child-marriages, and moreover, they are, in my opinion, contrary to the Hindu religion, which teaches that a girl should be of a marriageable age before she takes a husband. In the part of India with which I am acquainted—the Punjab—a girl is not married until she is thirteen or even older, and in that country she is a young woman at that age. The result of my own personal observation is that marriages in India are singularly happy. There are fewer cases of unkindness and violence than in this country. The dowry system is a great protection to the wife. Every bride takes her husband a dowry, which is a kind of marriage settlement against unkindness. If she is badly treated and thus compelled to go back to her father's house, the husband has to return her dowry; probably he has spent it, and as it is not often convenient for him to refund the money, he takes care to treat his wife well. I think that a similar system here would be a good thing."

The cruelty of Indian mothers-in-law and the awful fate of widows have been the text of many moralists and reformers. Mrs. Steel says:

"I must admit that the mother-in-law is rather a dreadful person, and the young wife has a trying time for the first year of her marriage, but after the birth of the first child she becomes the idol of the house."

"And she takes her compensation out of life by reflecting that she will one day be a mother-in-law herself?"

"Yes, that comforts her a little," replied Mrs. Steel, with a laugh. "I really think," she continued, "that the Hindu has a finer idea of marriage than we have. He does not make it a personal affair, but enters into it entirely for the sake of having children. It is through his children that he looks for immortality."

"Is not the position of widows in India a cruel one; it seems absolutely barbarous if all that we hear is true, but probably it is exaggerated?"

"Their position in Bengal can hardly be painted too darkly. In the Punjab—a very large proportion of Hindus—all the Jât races, for instance, practise the old Mosaic custom of taking the brother's widow to wife, and this naturally makes an enormous difference. Again, there can be no question that the sanctity attaching to virtuous widowhood does in many cases bring the religious enthusiasm which renders a nun content with her lot in life. In fact, I have known many and many a virgin widow who gloried in her fate. The hardship of it is that whereas the vocation is chosen by the nun, it is forced upon the widow, many of whom are not enthusiasts. The only remedy I can see lies in a refusal to recognize in our courts the validity of betrothal entered into before a marriageable age. This would of course diminish the risk of virgin widowhood immensely. I would not—we could not, briefly—decline to allow the legality of betrothal or marriage before such age. If no dispute arises and the marriage in due course is consummated, the presumption should be in favor of personal consent, but if, on the contrary, appeal were made to the courts, the latter should refuse to accept an illegal contract as they would refuse to accept an unstamped bond, which nevertheless would bind the parties in honor. This is old wisdom—'Ye have a law, see ye to it.' If the contract is a religious one, as it is—let the religion see to it. We are neutral."

Is the general position of women in India bad? Strange to say, Mrs. Steel considers it at least as good as that of Englishwomen. She says:

"I think it rather better than our own, certainly better than our own used to be. Women in India can hold property, and the widows always get a fixed portion of their husbands' goods."

"And are the rights of mothers recognized, or is there any native law which can deprive a mother of her child?"

"No such law exists, I believe, but life has been so simple and primitive in India that such difficulties never arise. There would be no question about it, as a rule, unless she were inferior in caste to her husband. Family practically decides everything; there is immense family pride in India, and these disputes seldom crop up. Even when a wife is unfaithful the husband generally takes the law into his own hands and cuts off the tip of her nose!

"The husband is tried for grievous hurt and receives punishment, but he does not mind that. The wife has had her nose cut off, which not only effectually spoils her beauty, if she had any, but it remains throughout life the hall-mark of her infidelity. Wherever she goes she will be pointed at with scorn—she has had her nose cut, and of course everybody knows why. It is a particularly effective punishment."

"Do you consider, Mrs. Steel, that education is making good progress among the women and girls of India, and does European education conduce to their happiness?"

"Education is spreading among the women of the lower classes in India, and I am inclined to say that in the present condition of things it does not conduce to their happiness, for this reason, it places them, so to speak, out of touch with the men whom they marry, and who are not educated. You see we are at present educating the lower class of girls, who have simply no chance to become the wives of men of the educated kind. Having had the supervision of girls' schools, I speak from actual observation, and I have known cases where great unhappiness has been caused to girls through being educated. Either they have to face the degradation of taking an inferior partner for life, or they refuse to marry the man to whom they are betrothed, and this is of course followed by family disputes and unhappiness. Mothers have often complained to me on this point, saying that after their daughters had attended the schools they rebelled against marrying those to whom they were betrothed. At present it is the higher class of women who are not educated, and it would be better for native society if we could start with them, for by educating the poor girls in advance of the higher-class ladies we are undoubtedly complicating matters."

According to Mrs. Steel, education is not tending to abolish the seclusion of women, but acts the other way. She thinks missionaries err in making it too cheap, and that neither secular nor religious education has been placed on a dignified and true basis. Rich women are charged very little or nothing for skilled aid, and what is thus flung at their feet is naturally depreciated. Mrs. Steel believes in helping the poorer class, but in demanding adequate recognition and compensation for any assistance rendered to those of the higher classes.

PROF. CARL REMIGIUS FRESENIUS, the German chemist, famous for his treatises, especially his "Qualitative Analysis" and his "Quantitative Analysis," died on June 10 of apoplexy. Professor Fresenius was born in 1818, at Frankfort-on-the-Main. He was professor of chemistry at the Institute of Wiesbaden, and founded a laboratory at that place which resulted in great developments, particularly of an industrial and agricultural nature.

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TWO AFRICAN MONARCHS.

M. PAUL MIMANDE has recently paid a visit to two dusky potentates, ruling, under French control, in West Africa, and gives a description of his experiences (*L'Illustration*), which is nothing if not entertaining. Aqo-li-Aqbo, the King of Dahomey, according to the writer, is a decidedly antipathetic personage. His majesty is a large stout negro, with a broad flat nose, and a sly, treacherous expression. On ceremonial occasions he wears a sort of toga of white cloth, and a pasteboard helmet covered with some spangled material. This costume, altho sufficiently absurd, has the advantages of being simple and inexpensive. Aqo-li-Aqbo is vain, and fond of display; but unhappily the royal purse is depleted, and he can not gratify his luxurious tastes. Too poor to maintain the royal stables, he has been obliged to abandon driving about in the berlin which his predecessor enjoyed, and in his mortification hit upon a happy expedient which is characteristic. He caused a small vehicle to be built, something like the wagons in which pedlers hawk their goods at country fairs, and in the deficiency of horses, conferred upon his ministers the honor of dragging it. The ministers play their part to perfection; they trot along rapidly at an even pace, and, the drive over, resume their post as the confidential friends and advisers of their sovereign. Aqo-li-Aqbo has had the honor, M. Paul Mimande declares, of realizing practically, for the first time, the conception of the chariot of state, which has hitherto been regarded as merely an abstraction.

The King of Dahomey has three hundred wives, and lives in the old palace of Sambodji, which formerly witnessed so many human sacrifices, the very walls, only a short time ago, being garnished with skulls. He has no longer any power either to behead or crucify, and contents himself with smoking, drinking, and courtship.

Toffa, the King of Porto Novo, is a much more wealthy and powerful monarch. Indeed, since Solomon, it is questionable whether he has had his peer. Toffa has a full treasury, five hundred wives, and concubines *ad libitum*, who never address him save on their knees, subjects who prostrate themselves at his approach, and children more numerous than those of Priam. He is a man of about fifty, black as the ace of spades, with small, but keen and piercing eyes, and is very subtle and intelligent. When he appears in his royal costume, a splendid robe embroidered with gold, a helmet with a tufted plume, his arms loaded with bracelets, and his breast starred with amulets, he produces an extraordinary and very contradictory impression; that of grotesqueness combined with real dignity.

Toffa's palace is a handsome wooden structure, not unlike the country-seat of a well-to-do middle-class Englishman. A long avenue of trees leads up to it, and the enclosure in which it stands is surrounded by a wall, with an immense entrance gate which, for the most part, is hospitably open. It is evident that the king is beloved by his subjects, and in no fear of anarchists and dynamiters. His manner of receiving his European visitors is novel. Toffa sits upon his throne in the reception-hall, surrounded by his counsellors and the members of his household. The foreigners are introduced. A bottle of champagne is brought; and the three principal officials of the kingdom come forward to open it; one takes the bottle, the second the corkscrew, and the third the glasses. Their faces are grave—they feel the responsibility of their important office. When the glasses are filled the king rises. This is the supreme moment! The courtiers prostrate themselves face downward; his majesty clicks his glass with those of his guests, and they drink in silence. The ceremony over, Toffa resumes his seat, and strikes the floor with his cane, the signal for the courtiers to rise. On hearing it, they start up snapping their fingers like castanets.

Toffa is by no means so arrogant as many of the African monarchs. He appreciates the weakness of his kingdom, admits the superiority of the white race, and considers it inevitable, and for the good of all, that the white chiefs should govern the black chiefs. He has proved the sincerity of his convictions by surrendering to the French voluntarily, and submitting to their government with stedfast loyalty for the last twenty years.

A year ago the monarch of Porto Novo conceived the happy idea of sending the heirs of his throne, the princes Dossou and Ajibi, to pay a visit to Paris. His prime minister Hazonme accompanied them as their mentor, and a military chief named Moussa played the part of their aide-de-camp. They lodged in an elegant hotel near the *Arc de Triomphe*, wore magnificent barbaric costumes, were plentifully supplied with louis d'or, and, as can readily be imagined, saw the world in style. They were soon satiated with royal receptions, threaters, and galleries, but never grew weary of the ballet and open-air concert; while with the circus their heads were completely turned. It is not to be supposed that these youthful barbarians were successful in surmounting temptations to which even the greatest saints have at times succumbed. One fine day, or evening, they were missed from their hotel, and as nothing could be learned of their whereabouts, the police were sent forth in quest of Toffa's sons. In due time they were discovered in the *Quartier de l'Opéra*, and brought back in safety, but not without the payment of a large ransom.

CORRESPONDENTS' CORNER.

Turkish Baths and Heart Disease Again.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—

There are so many and manifest objections to the discussion by physicians of a purely medical topic in the columns of a lay journal that I should pass unnoticed the communication which appears in your journal (June 19), under the title, "Is the Turkish Bath Dangerous in Heart Disease?" were it not that your correspondent appends to his signature the significant letters M.D.; and hence his words, if uncontradicted, might be accepted as authoritative, to the serious peril of confiding readers. The article from the London *Hospital*, which you quote in your issue of May 29, is in the main correct, and scarcely overstates the common knowledge of intelligent and disinterested physicians.

The Turkish bath *is unquestionably dangerous* to persons suffering from organic disease of the heart or blood-vessels; and, I may add, especially dangerous is the uncomfortable and unscientific method of the Turkish bath prevailing in this city.

If, as your correspondent states, it is customary at his establishment to give Turkish baths to "many persons suffering from organic difficulties of the heart," and as yet no death has occurred upon the premises, he is indeed to be congratulated upon his good fortune; but I am surprised at his additional statement, that he does not know of such deaths having occurred "in this country." In spite of the usual efforts to hush up such unfortunate events, others in the same business as your correspondent are unwillingly aware of their occurrence, even in this vicinity. Little over four weeks ago I was hurriedly summoned to a gentleman, whom I found already dead, upon the shampooing slab of a well-known Turkish bath. The coroner has since informed me that the post-mortem examination showed "rupture of the heart, and atheromatous arteries."

Your correspondent is equally inaccurate in speaking of medical journals as being "devoted to the treatment of diseases *entirely* by drugs." Hydrotherapeutics, or scientific treatment by baths and waters, has for many years occupied an important place in medical literature; and those who remain uninformed on this important subject have only themselves to blame.

Personally, I am fond of Turkish baths. I have taken them myself at almost every establishment in this city, and at many places in Europe, and, in a published work on "Hydrotherapy," I speak of Turkish and Russian baths as being "luxurious in the highest degree, and to constitutions which they suit, and when properly carried out, often beneficial and refreshing." There are, however, certain essentials to the *proper* Turkish bath which are generally disregarded here. The air should be constantly renewed and *absolutely dry;* hence there should be no plunge or water of any kind in direct communication with the hot rooms. The temperature should be *graduated*, from about 220° F. in the hottest part down to 110° F. at the coolest end of a large, airy room, where one could recline at perfect comfort, and perspire for half an hour or more, without being in disgusting proximity to others who, like ourselves, are pouring off into the hot air the effete products of their bodies.

Most of our Turkish baths comply with none of these conditions. They are less than a sixth of the proper dimensions for the number of persons usually found in them. They are ill ventilated, the air is moist, and, as stated by your correspondent, "the average temperature is from 150° F. to 185° F." throughout the entire bath; thus combining, under most unfavorable circumstances, the fundamentally opposite characteristics of both the Turkish and Russian baths. In the perfectly dry, pure air of a proper Turkish bath, when the skin and lungs are rapidly exhaling moisture, an exceedingly high temperature—even 240° F.—may be comfortably borne, by the average person, for some minutes; and it has been stated that men have worked in ovens at a temperature of 360° F. But water will boil at 212° F., and in the moist Russian bath a temperature of 120° F. is barely endurable.

The subject may be sufficiently summarized, for the purpose of this communication, by saying that for persons organically sound and otherwise in good health, especially when they are unable to take sufficient exercise, a proper Turkish bath is not only luxurious but usually hygienic; whereas in disease, baths of every variety are capable of such powerful and uncertain effects that they should only be used under the advice of a competent physician; who should determine the method of procedure with the same accuracy as he would the quantities in a prescription to be dispensed at the drug-store.

J. A. IRWIN, M.A. CANTAB., M.D.

NEW YORK.

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Current Events.

Monday, July 12.

The Senate considers the general deficiency bill, discussing Pacific Railroad affairs. . . . The House is in session. . . . The strike extends to several Monongahela mines. . . . A number of Massachussetts cotton mills reopen. . . . Justice Chester, Albany, N. Y., holds the Lexow anti-trust laws unconstitutional. . . . A grand jury at Nashville, Tenn., returns indictments against an ice trust. . . . Deaths: Geo. V. N. Lathrop, ex-minister to Russia, Detroit, Mich.; Judge N. Green Curtis, Sacramento, Cal. . . . Nicholas C. Creede, after whom the town of Creede, Colo., is named, commits suicide.

The American Monetary Commissioners hold a conference at the Foreign Office in London with Lord Salisbury and other British officials.

Tuesday, July 13.

The Senate passes the general deficiency bill and fixes the price of armor-plates at $300 a ton. . . . The House takes a recess for a day. . . . The National League of Republican Clubs meets in Detroit. . . . Arbitration commissioners from five States are making some progress toward settling the coal-miners' strike.

Arbitration has been refused in the strike of the engineers in London; 100,000 men are involved.

Wednesday, July 14.

After considerable filibustering Senate debate begins on the relation of the Government to the Union Pacific Railroad. . . . The Senate committee on foreign relations agrees upon ratification of the Hawaiian annexation treaty and reports a resolution for obtaining the release by Spain of Ona Melton, A. A. Laborde, and W. Gildea, and the restoration of the schooner *Competitor* to her owner. . . . The House sends the general deficiency bill to conference. . . . The President sent a long list of appointments to the Senate. . . . The President revokes the order of ex-President Cleveland reducing the number of pension agencies. . . . The Interstate Commerce Commission suspends the long and short haul clause to the Kootenai district to meet competition with the Canadian Pacific road. . . . L. J. Crawford, of Newport, Ky., is elected president of the National League of Republican Clubs at Detroit.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council refuses to allow an appeal in the case of Mrs. Carew, sentenced to life imprisonment for poisoning her husband.

Thursday, July 15.

The Senate adopts a joint resolution of participation in the Paris exposition of 1900; Mr. Harris's Pacific Railroad resolution is discussed. . . . The House takes a recess. . . . The Republican National League at Detroit reelects M. J. Dowling secretary, and selects Omaha for next year's convention. . . . It is reported that a scheme of arbitration will end the coal-miners' strike. . . . The Trans-Mississippi Congress meets at Salt Lake City, Utah; Wm. J. Bryan speaks. . . . The report of United States exports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, shows a total of $1,051,987,091, compared with $882,606,938 in 1896; excess of exports over imports during the year $287,615,186. . . . The International convention of the Baptist Young People's Union opens in Chattanooga, Tenn.

London advices report that international conferences will be held to consider the sealing question and coinage of silver. . . . A plan of coercion by the powers, and Turkey's renewal of military operation, are reported.

Friday, July 16.

Both branches of Congress are in session and agree to a partial report of conferees on the general deficiency bill; the House concurs in the Senate amendment fixing the price of armor-plate at $300 a ton. . . . Excitement prevails on the Pacific coast over great gold discoveries in the Yukon region, Alaska. . . . The New York State Bankers' Association is in session at Saratoga. . . . Rev. Edwood H. Stokes, president of the Ocean Grove (N. J.) camp-meeting association, dies.

It is reported that Herr Andrée made a successful start in his balloon for the North Pole last Sunday afternoon. . . . The indemnity to be paid to Turkey by Greece is now said to have been fixed at £4,000,000. . . . Mr. Balfour says in the House of Commons that no prosecutions will follow the report on South Africa. . . . The Queen Regent of Spain pardons eight insurgent chiefs under sentence of death.

Saturday, July 17.

In the Senate (alone in session) the Harris Pacific Railroad resolution is debated; Mr. Morgan attacks government officials connected with the proposed sale of the Government's interests. . . . Republican conferees reach an agreement on important differences over the tariff bill. . . . The President nominates T. V. Powderly, ex-Master-Workman of the Knights of Labor, for Commissioner-General of Immigration. . . . Seven hundred thousand dollars in gold reaches Port Townsend, Wash., from the Klondyke region. . . . The coal-miners' strike appears to be spreading in West Virginia.

Sunday, July 18.

Republican conferees make progress on the tariff bill. . . . The strike situation becomes more critical. . . . Thorwald Solberg, of Boston, is appointed register of copyright by Mr. Young, Librarian of Congress.

Turkey, after presenting a new and unacceptable frontier scheme to the Peace Conference, is informed that the conference will adjourn until the frontier line traced by the military *attachés* is accepted.

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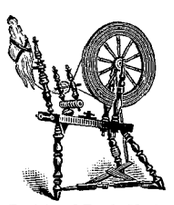

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PERSONALS.

SIR JOHN BURNS, Bart., who has just received a peerage at the hands of Queen Victoria, is the head of the Cunard steamship line, and is a justice of the peace and a deputy-lieutenant for the counties of Renfrew and Lanark. His father, on whom the baronetcy was conferred in 1889, was the first to carry mails across the Atlantic in steamers.—*The Record, Chicago.*

DEATH OF JOHN EVANS, OF COLORADO.—"Good words are said of him, for he deserved them. But he was of the middle West before President Lincoln sent him out to the Rockies as the war governor of the Colorado Territory. Born in Waynesville, Ohio, March 9, 1814, John Evans was well educated, and was graduated from a medical college in Cincinnati in 1838. He practised his profession in Indiana and Illinois, and at Attica, Ind., he became superintendent of the first insane asylum established in the State. In 1848 he went to Chicago as a member of the faculty of Rush Medical College, and in that city he lived until after the outbreak of the Civil War. Shrewd investments in real estate made him a very wealthy man as Chicago grew large and flourishing. While in Chicago he founded Evanston and the Northwestern University, which he endowed heavily, and was one of the builders of the Chicago and Fort Wayne Railroad, which he managed until his removal farther west. Mr. Evans was well known to Abraham Lincoln, whom he had helped to nominate for the Presidency in 1860, and in 1862 the latter offered to him the governorship of Washington Territory, which he declined. He was induced, however, in 1862 to become governor of the Territory of Colorado, which was then menaced by the Confederacy. His administration was distinguished by the battle of Glorietta, when some 400 frontiersmen repulsed an invading force of 3,500 Texans. It was also during his term that half the Cheyenne nation of Indians were massacred at Sand Creek by Western rangers, but Governor Evans was completely exonerated from complicity in that frightful slaughter by a congressional committee of investigation. Had it not been for political differences with Andrew Johnson, Mr. Evans would have entered the United States Senate in 1865, when the first state organization was formed, but Johnson's veto of the enabling act deferred the Territory's entrance to the Union some ten years, and, meanwhile, Mr. Evans had retired from politics. After the war he threw himself with all his energy into the development of Colorado. He built the first railroad there and inaugurated several great systems; he built also the Denver street railroad; he was one of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce, and established by his personal efforts the University of Denver, upon which he spent $200,000 in construction, and afterward lavished much of his wealth. He leaves two universities, therefore, as memorials of his munificence, not to mention many churches, chapels, and hospitals, seminaries, etc., to whose building or support he generously contributed. Mr. Evans at the age of 83, after a career of rare usefulness and activity, ranking him as one of the founders of the great Western civilization, died at his home in Denver last week [July 3]."—*The Republican, Springfield.*

L. J. CRAWFORD of Kentucky, the new president of the National League of Republican Clubs, was born at Newport, Ky., in 1860, and was educated at its schools and in the High School of Cincinnati. He was then graduated from the Cincinnati Law School. He studied law in the office of Congressman Benjamin Butterworth, and has practised law at Newport for sixteen years, with the exception of a single year, as he was in Minneapolis in 1883-84. He early gained high rank in his profession, and in 1891 was the Republican candidate for Attorney-General of Kentucky. In 1892 he was a Republican candidate for elector-at-large. In 1893 he was elected president of the Kentucky League of Republican Clubs, and was continued in office for three years. He has been a Republican campaign speaker in Kentucky and Ohio. For two years he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the National Republican League.

Absence of Plagues due to the Advancement of Science.

In 1490 B. C. a plague destroyed 624,000 Israelites in the Wilderness. A plague in London in 1625 destroyed 36,000 people. In the years 1635-36 there was a plague mortality of 14,000, and from 1663 to 1665 it is stated that there were in the same town 70,000 to 80,000 deaths.

In civilized countries at present those outbreaks of disease are practically unknown on account of the advancement of medical and chemical knowledge, but there is no doubt that the present death-rates could be largely diminished, and the general health of the community greatly improved by further sanitary precautions, especially in the homes, and the judicious use of some approved non-poisonous disinfectant, such as the "Sanitas" preparations, to which we take pleasure in calling the notice of our readers, and would advise them to write to the "Sanitas" Co., 636 West 55th Street, New York city, for a copy of their useful work, "How to Disinfect."

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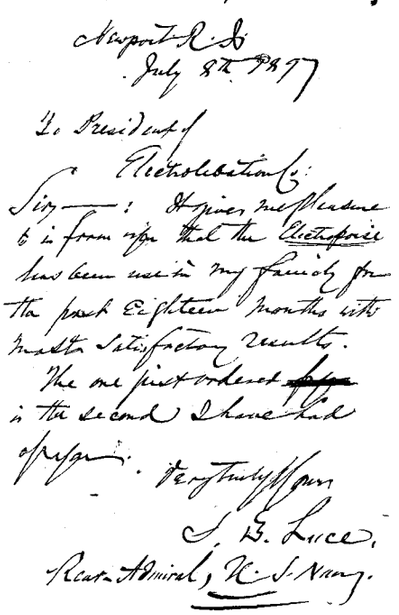

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BUSINESS SITUATION.

Trade journals disagree concerning the state of business in general and in particulars. The effect of the coal-miners' strike is problematical. The stock-market steadily advances. Exports show a decline, sharpest in wheat. Net railway earnings of leading companies for May increase 15 per cent. over last year. Business failures: *Bradstreet's*—247 to 255 a year ago; *Dun's Review*—263 to 269 a year ago.

Conflicting Views of Trade Conditions.—"The dullest month in the industrial year is duller than usual, notwithstanding improvement among potters and others. This is due to a reaction in iron and steel, prices of which are back to lowest points on record, a dragging demand for boots and shoes, and a threatened famine of bituminous coal.

"There are more coal-miners out than at this time last week, and notwithstanding assertions that arbitration will end the strike in the near future, some of the largest operators in the Pittsburg district declare there is nothing to arbitrate.

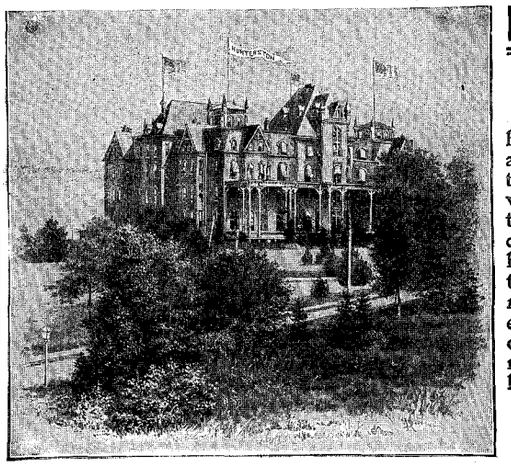
"Manufacturers of cotton goods and their agents report trade slow, owing to higher-cost cotton and low prices for goods. This has shut down a number of cotton mills in Massachusetts and in Rhode Island. A fairly steady business is reported by Eastern manufacturers of shoes, but this trade at Philadelphia is dull, merchants hesitating to place orders. Western wholesale dealers in clothing report distribution unsatisfactory. Western bar-iron mills are already shut down, and if the coal strike lasts another week thousands of factory wheels will stop turning. This checks the stronger and more confident feeling in industrial circles which was so pronounced a fortnight ago."—*Bradstreet's, July 17.*

"Excepting the great coal-miners' strike, which may terminate at any time, there is scarcely a feature of the business outlook which is not encouraging, the season considered. Crop prospects have been improved by needed rains in some regions, and foreign advices continue to promise a large demand. In many home industries, particularly in building, there is more activity than in any year since 1892, and the week has brought a better demand in boots and shoes and in woolens, while the movement of freight, mainly iron ore, through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal is the largest in its history. With money-markets unclouded, there is nothing in sight to hinder rapid improvement when uncertainty about legislation has been removed, for the miners' strike could not last long if business and industries should become active. There is much less apprehension of a failure of fuel supply than there was during the first few days when prices rapidly advanced, and large quantities of coal from West Virginia have reached Northern markets, but some of the miners in that State have struck."—*Dun's Review, July 17.*

Prices: Wheat Speculation.—"The heavy loss of sheep in Australia, due to drought, and speculation in wool here on tariff prospects have made wool prices higher, with large sales, about 8,000,000 pounds at Boston alone, compared with 700,000 pounds in the like week last year. In addition to the advance for wool and bituminous coal, prices are higher for hides and leather on good demand, and for wheat on the continued statistical strength of that cereal, short crop prospects abroad, a large average export movement, and in the face of the generally improving domestic crop outlook. Only a world's available supply of wheat is probably the smallest at a like period in many years. Europe is expected to have to import 100,000,000 bushels more wheat than last year, and neither India, Austria, or the Argentine is expected to be able to supply its usual share. The American wheat farmer and speculator are taking an unusual interest in the situation at this time. Reaction in iron and steel is followed by lower prices for wheat flour, Indian corn, oats, pork, lard, petroleum and rosin, while practically unchanged quotations are reported for coffee, cotton, print-cloths, and refined sugar. The general tendency of the price movement this week, therefore, is to reverse the growing strength of quotations in the preceding fortnight."—*Bradstreet's, July 17.*

"The advance in wheat to 81½ cents was not due to the government estimate, which was followed by a decline, but to foreign advices and considerable buying for export. Demand is already felt from Australia, South Africa, Brazil, and even Argentina, while the promise for European crops is not considered bright. The disposition of farmers to keep back wheat for higher prices may affect the outward movement, but Atlantic exports during July, flour included, have been 3,115,443 bushels against 2,953,817 last year, altho in the same weeks 4,659,315 bushels corn went out against 1,574,072 last year. Wheat closed 4 cents higher for the week, and corn ½ a cent higher. Cotton is a sixteenth higher, the closing or partial stoppage of important New England mills hardly neutralizing in market estimation the apprehensions of injury from drought."—*Dun's Review, July 17.*

Activity in Canada.—"In the province of Ontario exporters of dairy products are doing an active business. There is also a large demand for dry-goods and other seasonable lines for fall delivery, based on favorable crop prospects. Staple crops in the province of Quebec have been improved by rains following the extreme hot weather. General trade is fairly active at Montreal. Only a moderate business is reported from Halifax. The catch of fish on the Newfoundland south shore promises well, better than at the north or on the French shore. There are 38 business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada this week, compared with 34 last week, 33 in the week a year ago, and 29 two years ago [*Dun's Review*, 27 to 35 last year]. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax amount to $21,993,376 this week, compared with $28,134,000 last week, when the total was an extraordinarily heavy one. The like aggregate for the second week of July, 1896, was only $19,880,000, about 9 per cent. less than in the current week."—*Bradstreet's July 17.*



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CHESS.

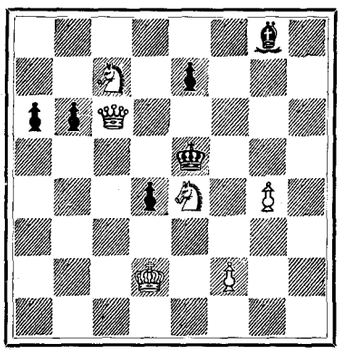
[All communications for this Department should be addressed: "Chess Editor, LITERARY DIGEST."]

Problem 213.

BY DR. H. V. GOTTSCHALL.

Black—Six Pieces.

K on K 4; B on K Kt sq; Ps on K 2, Q 5, Q Kt 3, Q R 3.



White—Six Pieces.

K on Q 2; Q on Q B 6; Kts on K 4, Q B 7; Ps on K B 2, K Kt 4.

White mates in three moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 208.

1.	Q—R 7 / K x P	2.	Q—K 7 ch / K—Q 4 must	3. Q—K 5, mate
1.	..... / K—K 5	2.	Q—K R 7 ch / K—Q 4	3. Q—B 5, mate
		2.	..... / K—B 5	3. Q—R 4, mate
1.	..... / P x P	2.	Q—Q 7 ch / K—K 5 must	3. Q—B 5, mate
1.	..... / P—Kt 4	2.	Q—K 7 / P—Kt 5 must	3. Q—K 5, mate

Correct solution received from M. W. H., University of Virginia; Dr. S. W. Close, Gouverneur, N. Y.; "O. B. Joyful," Philadelphia; F. H. Johnston, Elizabeth City, N. C.; J. S. Smith, Linneus, Mo.; F. S. Ferguson, Birmingham, Ala.; Dr. R. J. Moore, Riverton, Ala.; the Rev. J. Gibson, Norwood, Ontario.; H. V Fitch, Omaha; R. L. Borger, Lake City, Fla.; H. W. Barry, Boston; M. A. S., Easton, Pa.; Dr. W. S. Frick, Philadelphia; W. G. Donnan, Independence, Ia.; Courtenay Lemon, New York city.

Comments: "A neat and delicate composition of a high order"—M. W. H. "It is safe to say this problem will not win the prize"—Dr. S. W. C. "In my estimation, a beautiful problem"—O. B. J. "Very clever"—F. H. J. "Difficult for so few pieces"—J. S. S. "A remarkable composition"—F. S. F. "A jubilating Queen"—Dr. R. J. M.

Dr. Moore, Courtenay Lemon, and the Rev. W. F. Furman were successful with the Fridlizius (207).

Walter Brown, Malden, Mass., sends correct solution of 206.

Several of our solvers can't find White's reply to Black's (1) B P x P in 207 (Fridlizius). We should have given this variation, but we thought that it was apparent. Here it is:

1.	Kt—Q 6 / B P x P	2.	Q—K Kt sq, ch / K—K 4, must	3. Q—Q R sq, mate

"The American Chess Code."

The Manhattan Chess-Club, of New York city, has published a book with the above title, which because of its importance demands more than a passing notice. This book is a reprint of "The British Chess-Code." The American rights in this book were given to the Manhattan Club, and the name was changed to "The American Chess-Code" "to secure for it an introduction to American Chess players, and for the purpose of copyright protection." In the preface we are also informed that "this work is undertaken by the Manhattan Chess-Club, not for financial profit, but in pursuance of the objects for which the Club was formed: the advancement and cultivation of the game of Chess." The scope of the work is clearly indicated: "There are no radical changes in the fundamental Chess-laws, and no wide departure from the usual and accepted mode of Chess-play. The object is rather to codify and reduce the laws to definite order; to amplify and extend definitions, until there shall be no doubt of the exact meaning of words and phrases; and, finally, to formulate the whole under clear and consistent rules that shall be competent to decide all questions that may arise under all conditions of Chess-play."

We recommend the book, especially to those of our friends who send us many questions on various points of play. We gave recently the general law respecting a "promoted" Pawn, or a Pawn reaching the eighth rank. The law in the code agrees with what we said: "When a Pawn moves to a square of the eighth rank, the player of the Pawn, in the same turn to play, *must* exchange it for a Queen or Bishop or Knight or Rook."

It is quite evident that in Castling we have the only condition possible in which the K can be moved more than one square. Hence, the initial move, in Castling, is that of the K and not of the R. We are glad to see the law on this point very clearly given. Here it is: "If a player, in Castling, moves and quits his Rook before touching his King, his opponent, before touching a man, may require that the move with the Rook be treated as a complete move, and, if the King has been displaced from the King's square, that the King be replaced on that square." The mooted subjects of Penalties, Time-limit, Odds, are fully set forth. We heartily recommend this book to all those interested in Chess. The fact that it is published by Brentano's is a sufficient guaranty of the excellence of the letterpress and binding.

Literary Digest Correspondence Tourney.

FIRST GAME.

Scotch Gambit.

J. W. RAYMOND, Hartford, Conn. *White.*	H. KETCHAM, Vergennes, Vt. *Black.*	J. W. RAYMOND, Hartford, Conn. *White.*	H. KETCHAM, Vergennes, Vt. *Black.*
1 P—K 4	P—K 4	15 Kt x B	R P x Kt
2 Kt—K B 3	Kt—Q B 3	16 Kt—R 4	K—R sq
3 P—Q 4	P x P	17 P—Q R 3 (f)	R—K Kt sq
4 B—Q B 4 (a)	B—Q B 4	18 P—K B 4	P—Q 4 (g)
5 P—Q B 3	Kt—B 3	19 P—K 5	P x P
6 B—K Kt 5	P—Q 3	20 B P x P (h)	Q x Kt
(b)		21 Q R—Q sq	R—Kt 2
7 P x P	B—Kt 5 ch	22 P—K R 3	Q R—K Kt sq
8 Kt—Q B 3	Castles	23 R—K B 2	R—Kt 6
9 Castles	Q B—Kt 5	24 Q—K B 5	R x R P
10 Q Kt—Q 5	B—Q R 4	25 Q—B 6 ch	R—Kt 2
11 Q—Q 3	B—K 3	26 Q x Q	R x Q
12 B x Kt (c)	P x B	27 R—Q B 2	R—B 5
13 Kt—K 3 (d)	B x B	28 P—R 4	P—B 4
14 Kt x B (e)	B—Kt 3	Resigns.	

Notes.

(a) This constitutes the real Scotch Gambit; but the text move is not usually played now; Kt x P is preferred.

(b) P x P is better. We prefer to Castle here, White would have saved a move by so doing.

(c) No necessity for this exchange. Black gets an open file for his R, and this contributed largely to White's defeat.

(d) Kt—B 4 would have been much stronger. He should have kept up the attack on the King's side.

(e) Should have taken with B. His one idea seems to have been to force Black to double his Pawns, which Black is perfectly willing to do.

(f) Another lost move. Kt—Kt 5 frightened him.

(g) Black seems to have been waiting for White to get his game in as bad a condition as possible.

(h) Costs a Kt.

The moral of this game is that, when White offers a gambit for the purpose of getting an attack, first get the attack, and then keep it.

SECOND GAME.

Ruy Lopez.

COURTENAY LEMON, New York City. *White.*	M. P. QUINTANA, Albany. *Black.*	COURTENAY LEMON, New York City. *White.*	M. P. QUINTANA, Albany. *Black.*
1 P—K 4	P—K 4	15 P—K B 3	P—B 3
2 Kt—K B 3	Kt—Q B 3	16 B x Kt (d)	P x B
3 B—Kt 5	Kt—K B 3	17 Q—B 2	R—K 2
4 Castles	Kt x P	18 Q R—K sq	Q R—K sq
5 P—Q 4	Kt—Q 3	19 P—Q R 3 (e)	Q—B 7
6 B x Kt	Q P x B	20 Kt—K 4	Q x Q ch
7 Q—K 2 (a)	P—K 5	21 K x Q	B—B 5
8 B—B 4	B—K 2 (b)	22 Kt x Q P	B x R
9 K Kt—Q 2	Castles	23 Kt x R	R x R
10 Kt x P	B—K 3 (c)	24 K x R	B x P
11 Q Kt—Q 2	B—B 3	25 K—B 2	B—R 6
12 Kt x B ch	Q x Kt	26 Kt—Q 6	P—Q Kt 3 (f)
13 B—K 5	Q—Kt 3	27 P—Q Kt 4	K—B sq
14 P—Q B 3	K R—K sq	28 P—Q B 4	

Drawn by agreement.

Notes by C. Lemon.

(a) Quite different from the usual continuation, which is 7 P x P, Kt—B 4; 8 Q x Q ch, K x Q.

(b) Black might also have continued 8 Q—K 2 followed by B—K 3 and Castles Q side, but his K B would be confined, and in the end he could not hold on to the Pawn plus without compromising his position. 8 ... P—K B 4 seems a somewhat better continuation, however; but the text move was the least risky and secured in all respects a satisfactory game.

(c) Threatening to win the exchange by B—B 5.

(d) Forced; if 16 B—Kt 3, 16 B—B 5.

(e) If 19 Kt—K 4, B—B 5; 20 Kt x Q P, B x R; 21 Kt x R, R x R; 22 Q x R, Q x P mate. If White does not move R P intending after 19 .., B x P to trap B by P—Q Kt 3, Black plays 19.., B x P; 20 P—Q Kt 3, Q—B 7.

(f) The most interesting position of the game. 26 P—Q Kt 4 would have lost on account of the reply 27 P—Q 5, P x P (if 27 .., B—Q 2; 28 P x P, B x P; 29 Kt—B 8 threatening both Kt x P and Kt—K 6 ch); 28 Kt x P, P—Q R 4 (if 28 .., P—R 3, 29 Kt—B 7 winning a P), 29 P—Q Kt 4 and wins.

Notes by one of the Judges.

White's 6th: Of no advantage to White, while it enables Black to develop his Q B. The *Handbuch* gives 6 P x P, Kt x P; 7 P—Q R 4. The old move B—R 4 is better than the text-move.

Black's 9th: B—K 3 would have given Black the stronger game. This holds the White Kt, temporarily at least, on Q 2, by the threat B—B 5.

Black's 11th: Poorly played; no reason for this exchange. Kt—B 3 would, really, have given him the attack.

Black's 15th: Should have played B—Q 2, and then got his Kt into play on the K's side.

Black's 19th: Seemingly satisfied if he can make a draw. Q—B 2, P—B 4, or P—Q Kt 4, would have given him an almost irresistible attack.

Black's 21st: Probably an oversight.

We would like to have the opinions of our solvers as to whether or not White can force a win?

Queen and King?

The question as to the precedence of the King or Queen has attracted considerable attention. We published an article in which the writer made the plain statement that at the match between Congress and the House of Commons, the Queen occupied the square known as the King's square. We also gave the rejoinder in the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* and the article from *The Evening Post*, ridiculing this. We lately received a letter from our esteemed correspondent, M. W. H., in which he says: "I am inclined to believe that, after all, Queen Victoria, or somebody, created a little confusion in Chess. When I was a boy we always used as Queen the piece now used as King—the taller piece. Some experienced players at the University of Virginia say that they always did the same. Two years ago I met a Chess-player at Fort Spring, W. Va., who refused to play at all unless the taller piece was used as the Queen. He said that he had never seen the pieces used in any other way." Has any one else any information to offer on this subject?

Chess-Nuts.

The Evening News, Manchester, England, is authority for the statement that the incidental expenses of the cable match between the House of Commons and the House of Representatives amounted to $2,250, exclusive of the value of the trophy, about $525. *The Times-Democrat*, New Orleans, thinks this is "pretty costly sport, all things considered; $2,775 would make a fine nucleus for an International Masters' Congress."

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